



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Yeltsin Decree Establishes 'Federal Grain Fund'

President Yeltsin signed a decree establishing a Federal Grain Fund to ensure supply to the population, ITAR-TASS reports. A Yeltsin spokesman said the fund "will help reduce speculation in grain," the agency added.

Russian Government Conference on Course of Reforms

A government conference on the course of economic reform continued its work in Moscow, according to INTERFAX, which reported Yegor Gaydar's admission of a "serious mistake" in the government's handling of privatization issues. Other sources reported remarks to the conference by Deputy Prime Ministers Chubays and Shokhin, and by other economic affairs officials.

Yeltsin Promises 'Necessary Steps' in Abkhazia

INTERFAX reports that President Yeltsin held an extraordinary meeting of the Russian Security Council to discuss the situation in Abkhazia. Yeltsin "stated that he will take necessary steps to settle the conflict in Abkhazia and promote the beginning of negotiations between the opposing sides." The meeting participants stressed the need to settle the conflict politically as soon as possible and, according to Moscow Radio, decided to send "State Secretary Burbulis to the North Caucasus." Radio Rossii reports that Burbulis met Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze in Tbilisi on 24 August for "confidential" talks.

Meanwhile, the Abkhaz leader Ardzinba was presented "with an ultimatum that he resign" by the commander of the Georgian troops in Sukhumi, according to Russian TV. Ardzinba, according to INTERFAX, said on 25 August that "he was ready to join the Russian-Georgian summit talks on Abkhazia and on the Trans-Caucasian region as a whole."

No Warheads in North Caucasus Military District

Radio Rossii, citing a NEGA report, notes that the North Caucasus Military District Command stated that "there are no nuclear warheads on the district territory. They were withdrawn in the fall of 1991 because of the aggravation of the regional situation."

Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree on Kazakh Talks

Moscow Radio, citing RIA, reports that the Kazakh president spoke with the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh on 24 August. The three presidents agreed that "trilateral talks between their foreign ministers should be held in Alma-Ata in the near future, aimed at seeking mutually acceptable, coordinated steps."

Azerbaijani President Declares State of Emergency

ITAR-TASS reports that the Azerbaijani president imposed a "month-long state of emergency" in the Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons "in connection with Armenia's wide-scale aggression."

Ukrainian Government in Exile Surrenders Powers

ITAR-TASS reports that the Ukrainian People's Republic, proclaimed on 7 November 1917, but forced into exile after Kiev was taken by German troops in April 1918, officially "surrendered its powers" to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk during a ceremony in Mariinskiy Palace. Speaking at the ceremony, Kravchuk noted the "huge importance" of this move. "This imparts to us strength and confidence on the road of the construction of independent Ukraine," said the president.

TV Crew Inspects Russian Typhoon Submarine

OW2108153292 Tokyo Broadcasting System
Television Network in Japanese 1400 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by correspondent Seiichi Kanise on visit to a Russian Typhoon-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine; from "News 23" program—moderated by newscaster Tetsuya Chikushi; date of visit not given]

[Text] [Chikushi] This evening we would like to begin the news program by showing exclusive pictures. One year has passed since the Soviet Union collapsed. Meanwhile, despite its economic woes, the Russian Republic remains a military superpower. What can be called the trump card of this power is the Typhoon-class submarines which are the largest such nuclear ballistic missile submarines in the world. We of JNN [Japan News Network] are the first from a Western nation to see these submarines.

[Unidentified announcer] The Typhoons were docked at a secret base northwest of Severomorsk, the home port for the Russian North Sea Fleet. Each of these Typhoons is said to carry enough nuclear missiles to destroy all the United States. Kanise, a reporter on the Special Reports Desk, visited one of them.

[Kanise] [video shows aerial photos of the Severomorsk base area] Severomorsk is the headquarters for Russia's North Sea Fleet. This large port on the North Sea may lie within the region of the North Pole, but within its area is deployed the most up-to-date vessels of the Russian Navy—such as the Kiev class aircraft carrier as well as missile cruisers.

The home base for the Typhoons is located at the corner of a fjord called Gutpa Zapadnaya Lisa, about 150 kilometers northwest of Severomorsk.

Code-named Zapadnaya Lisa by the U.S. Defense Department, up till now this base could have been seen only through data supplied by satellites. This satellite photo—taken from 800 km—confirms the existence of three submarine docks in an area 5 km in diameter. At the southern end of the base, one can see a 260-meter long floating dock. Next to it is a large submarine which appears to be a Typhoon, and then large piers for Typhoon-class submarines. According to reports, the area is alleged to have large tunnels to protect the submarines from enemy attack. Truly the base is a secret area for the Russian submarine fleet.

When we entered the base, we saw three of the Typhoons anchored, but there were supposed to be six of them altogether. They were preparing to sail on their next mission. [video shows close-up of a Typhoon, and Kanise climbing the ladder to go onboard]

Wow, this is big. It's as big as a three or four-story building.

[Announcer] At 170 meters in length and 23 meters in width, the Typhoons are the world's largest ballistic missile nuclear submarines. With a crew of 150, they can operate deep under the Arctic Ocean for long periods of time—from three to six months. [video shows a room described by the subtitle as "Combat Command Post"]

[Unidentified Russian officer] Captain, preparations for combat are completed.

[Second unidentified Russian officer] I am reporting from the periscope. The strength of the waves is degree 3. [video shows interior of the Typhoon, including shots of a passageway, dining facilities, gym, sauna, and small swimming pool]

[Announcer] Sleeping quarters were arranged in three stories and partitioned from each other by ladders and water-tight hatches. In the dining room, people ate meals cooked by kitchen personnel. They were using china dishes and glasses, which is impossible to imagine in Western submarines. A specialist from a Western nation said he could not understand why they were using such noise-producing ware in submarines where one cannot but be sensitive about noise lest they should be discovered by an enemy vessel. Inside the submarine, one did not feel the crewmen were living in confined and hot spaces as is normally the case in other submarines. There were recreational facilities to help the crewmen endure such long operational missions as those lasting six months.

The biggest feature of the Typhoons is that in front of the bridge it contains two lines of 10 nuclear missile launchers—a total of 20 launchers. One ship like this can attack 180 different targets simultaneously. The total destructive power is equivalent to 4,800 times that of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. [video shows Kanise and unidentified Russian officer standing on the bow of the submarine, directly above the missile silos]

[Kanise] You mean there are nuclear missiles right underneath here.

[Unidentified officer] Yes.

[Kanise] Eh? It is so scary. Under each of these sections there are several sets of them with so many warheads.

[Officer] Yes. [video cuts to an interview with military commentator Kazuhisa Ogawa]

[Kanise] We now live in the post-cold war era. Is there a rationale for having such vessels?

[Ogawa] There probably is no one who is seriously thinking about using them in war, but this one vessel can launch 200 warheads. Theoretically, one Typhoon can destroy the entire United States. Because Russia has this kind of weaponry, it can do as it pleases as regards negotiations with the United States. It is a very effective trump card in Russia's negotiations.

Armenia, Azerbaijan Agree on Talks in Kazakhstan

LD2508093892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] Telephone conversations between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Presidents Abulfaz Elchibey, of Azerbaijan, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, of Armenia took place late in the evening of 24 August. This was reported today to a RIA correspondent in the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It also was reported that the presidents discussed several aspects of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Nursultan Nazarbayev came out in favor of the speedy cessation of military actions and of the necessity for embarking on talks, with Kazakhstan's mediation. Agreement was reached by the three presidents that trilateral talks between their foreign ministers should be held in Alma-Ata in the near future, aimed at seeking mutually acceptable, coordinated steps. Let us recall that that was a report by the RIA agency. The KAZREVVU agency has confirmed the information.

No Warheads in North Caucasus Military District

LD2408191292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] According to a report from NEGA, the Command of the North Caucasus Military District has stated that there are no nuclear warheads on the district territory. They were withdrawn in the fall of 1991 because of the aggravation of the regional situation.

Plans for Redeployment in Transcaucasus Noted

PM2408145992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Anatoliy Dokuchayev: "Transcaucasus Military District: Today and Tomorrow"]

[Text] The recent development of events concerning Russian Federation military units stationed in the Transcaucasian republics is producing a spate of readers' letters. Our readers ask us to clarify what the prospects are for Russian troops continuing to serve on the territory of those republics. Your correspondent approached the Russian Federation Armed Forces' General Staff for clarification and received the following information.

At present a process of creating separate armed forces is under way in all the Transcaucasian republics. Under the existing accords a considerable number of the combined units, military units, and establishments of the Transcaucasus Military District are to be disbanded by the end of the present year. During this process some of the armaments, military equipment, stocks of materiel, and real estate are being switched to the defense ministries of those republics in set quotas.

The servicemen of units undergoing disbandment are being transferred to the jurisdiction of military district commanders on the basis of the availability of accommodation and service prospects. Officers and NCO's

who express the wish to continue serving in the armed forces of the sovereign states are being transferred to the relevant defense ministries on request, with their names being removed from the personnel roster of the Russian Defense Ministry.

It is intended to create a group of Russian troops in Transcaucasia based on the remaining units of the Transcaucasus Military District, the status of which will be determined on the basis of additionally drafted measures and agreements between the Russian Federation and the sovereign states of the Transcaucasus.

High Command Spokesman on Information Exchange

PM2408122592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 22 Aug 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin report: "There Will Be Mutual Exchange of Information—This Is Decision of Chiefs of Staff Committee"]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—The Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Commonwealth Countries' Armed Forces has adopted a decision on the procedure for the mutual exchange of information along lines of operational service and officials. Lieutenant General Valeriy Manilov, press secretary of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command, reported this to an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

In his opinion, a unified procedure within the CIS Joint Armed Forces for the mutual exchange of information will have a constructive influence on cooperation among all structures and organs of military command and the Commonwealth countries' Armed Forces.

According to him, the exchange will concern any significant events—exercises, maneuvers, the fulfillment of military programs, and other measures of an operational nature. This reciprocal interest by the military is also important from other viewpoints—knowledge of the processes taking place in the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth states and the coordination of efforts, particularly when resolving tasks of improving the single defense and military-strategic space.

Gen. Manilov believes that all participants in the 18 August session of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Commonwealth States' Armed Forces displayed a correct understanding of the problem. There were no substantial deviations from the general opinion and mood in favor of setting up this work as quickly as possible and putting it on a practical footing. At the committee session it was planned to increase such cooperation and extend it to all other spheres.

Commenting on the absence of representatives of the Moldovan and Georgian military departments from the session, Gen. Manilov pointed out that sooner or later these states will come to realize the need for collective security.

"The further integration of efforts in the sphere of defense and collective security accords with the fundamental interests of the peoples of the Commonwealth states and their armed defenders," Gen. Manilov concluded.

Coordinator Discusses Problems of CIS System

*OW2008172892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1623 GMT 20 Aug 92*

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidential Bulletin continues the publication of an article by its author, the coordinator of the working group of the Councils of the Commonwealth heads of State and government, Ivan Korotchenya, titled as "The Commonwealth of Independent States Is a Step toward a Higher Form of Inter-State Association". The article reflects Korotchenya's personal view of the processes inside the new Commonwealth.

Ivan Korotchenya sees the sufficiently deep social and economic differences between the Commonwealth republics and the differing priorities in their foreign lines as a serious obstacle on the road for an effectively-working commonwealth. He makes mention of the pro-European leanings of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, on the one hand, and the pro-Turkish sentiment on the Commonwealth's southern borders, on the other. The absence, in the Commonwealth, of a coordinating body with at least minimal authority is working against the Commonwealth. In Korotchenya's view, the very idea of forming a coordinating body is being instinctively rejected.

As a result, the emergence of a new economic community remains on paper while inter-regional economic barriers do divide the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth republics are getting ready to introduce their own currency units and destroy the single banking system.

Ivan Korotchenya emphasizes that another reason why the Commonwealth of Independent States remains ineffective is the Commonwealth's inability to extinguish armed conflicts between its member-nations. He is seriously worried about the outbursts of territorial claims and the meaningless strife for control of the Black sea fleet against the backdrop of the emergence of national armies. His impression is, the new ruling elites are deliberately exploiting the state of controlled confrontation to strengthen their positions. Commonwealth republics occasionally find it difficult to reach agreement even on the most insignificant issue.

Korotchenya feels populism dominates more sober-minded approaches as a means for achieving political ends. He qualifies this idea by saying that most Commonwealth republics are seeking full sovereignty even at the expense of any other considerations. But frequently,

what is preached as sovereignty, appears to be nothing but separatism. The leaders of the newly independent republics are showing more interest in the Western backing of their projects than in the businesslike solution of their peoples' problems through more interaction inside the Commonwealth.

The author admits that regardless of all that, the Commonwealth of Independent States is playing the role of an important lever for negotiations and enables the individual republics to correlate interests and positions and arrive at solutions.

Upcoming CIS Bishkek Summit Previewed

*PM2108142992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 2*

[Report by Pavel Shinkarenko: "Will the CIS Have Its Own State Secretary?"]

[Text] The next CIS summit will be held in Bishkek 25 September. This became known when the Commonwealth's Minsk headquarters produced the preliminary agenda for the next session of both councils—heads of state heads and heads of government.

The following formula is proposed: The heads of the cabinets of ministers will launch the discussion of economic matters, then the presidents will join in the debate. It has been decided that the premiers' council will discuss collaboration between countries in emergencies, examine the governments' actions in the fall-winter period, which experts expect to be very difficult, and also discuss and sign a number of other agreements—on coordination of work in the sphere of postal and telegraph communications, geodesy and cartography, and weights and measures.

You might wonder why the premiers should be dealing with these "routine" matters when there are special departments for this. But experience shows that intervention by the top people is essential: The situation is such that even a "humdrum" topic like cartography can become political.

The presidents' meeting is a different matter. In this case they are arranging draft "cornerstone" agreements right away.

On analyzing the results of the previous summits—in Kiev, Tashkent, Alma-Ata, and Moscow—and the agenda for the next meeting in Bishkek, you come to the conclusion that the talks partners' independence euphoria is gradually passing. What is predominating in the presidents' decisions is the fundamental, long-term interests of countries and peoples rather than politicians' personal ambitions or the pursuit of short-term benefits. In Bishkek the intention is to discuss 15 questions, three of which the Russian delegation was instructed to prepare. There are draft agreements on making economic legislation and the basic principles of the implementation of interstate accords more compatible, and on the

foundations of military doctrine and nuclear strategy. At the request of the border guards the matter of finance for, and the activities of, CIS border forces is to be examined. The Tajik delegation submitted a plan for the construction of the Rogunskaya Hydroelectric Power Station, a job which other interested Commonwealth states could share.

The question of progress in the preparation of the document establishing the foundation for the functioning of the CIS occupies a special place in the agenda, in our view. Essentially, what we are talking about is a CIS charter, although the document is not called that. I think it will be a lively discussion. Unless it is postponed, of course. After all, it effectively lays the foundation for a future building called the CIS.

It is worth recalling that only a few days ago Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the former USSR, said that he intends to place before the Bishkek summit participants the question of instituting a confederation of states based on the former Union. Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev is willing to do that, it seems. He proposed that the post of CIS state secretary as leader of a permanent Commonwealth apparatus should be instituted at the Bishkek meeting. There have been interesting proposals from elsewhere, too.

One would like to believe that the hopes for a peaceful settlement of the disputes will be borne out and Bishkek will find areas where the interests of all the sides involved in the CIS meet.

Baltic States on Russian Troop Withdrawal

PM2408153592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Konstantin Eggert article: "Baltic States Take Dispute With Russia To United Nations"]

[Text] Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia have asked for an additional point entitled "The complete withdrawal of foreign armed forces from the territory of the Baltic states" to be included on the agenda of the 47th UN General Assembly session.

ITAR-TASS reports that the request was formulated in a letter from these states' representatives to the UN secretary general. The inclusion of this question on the forthcoming General Assembly session agenda, the document notes, would be a "timely use of preventive diplomacy in a region where a threat could emerge to the maintenance of international peace and security." A year has passed since the restoration of the Baltic states' independence, the letter notes, but foreign armed forces are still present on their territories. Bilateral talks on this issue have "so far been mainly unsuccessful," the document points out.

Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn are thus continuing the diplomatic offensive launched long ago, which achieved its main success at the July CSCE "summit" in Helsinki.

That was when they managed to get a reference to the need for the speediest withdrawal of the former USSR's Army from Baltic territory included in the summit communique. Continually reminding the world community about this is probably the only thing that the Baltic capitals can do to counter the Russian arsenal, which includes powerful levers of economic pressure. The Baltic states will probably meet with understanding at the General Assembly too—an understanding which may be reflected in its resolutions. But this will have no impact on the crux of the matter.

In terms of the inflexibility shown by both sides, the Russo-Baltic conflict is starting to resemble the confrontation between the Arabs and Israel. We would recall that, at the last meeting of the foreign ministers of the Russian Federation, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia in Moscow 6 August, Andrey Kozyrev stated a readiness to withdraw the troops in 1994, while making a number of reservations, including the withdrawal by the Baltic countries of their demands for compensation for the damage done to them in 1940-1991, the abandonment of territorial claims (with reference to Estonia), and the safeguarding of the nonnative population's rights.

Kozyrev's colleagues—Ministers J. Jurkans, A. Saudargas, and J. Manitski—considered both the schedule and the accompanying conditions to be unacceptable. The planned cycle of summits between President B. Yeltsin and the heads of the Baltic states is hardly likely to fundamentally alter anything.

The only realistic way out the deadlock seems to be to divorce the question of the former Soviet Army's presence from all other problems on one condition—the Baltic states should pledge to enter into talks with Moscow on questions of interest to it, when a troop withdrawal agreement is signed. Ultimately the calls for the evacuation of the Russian servicemen are entirely legitimate. There is little point waiting until there is not a single influential international organization left which does not express support for the Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonians.

The continuous connection that is made between the problem of the Russian-speaking inhabitants of the Baltic and the presence of our officers and men could sooner or later cast Russia in the unseemly role of blackmailer. Nor is Moscow really planning to resolve these contradictions with the help of armed force.

Concessions on the troop withdrawal issue will undermine the positions of the national radicals in the Baltic states and create favorable preconditions for a tough dialogue both on the problems of minorities and in the Russo-Estonian dispute over Pechory. Moreover, real progress at the talks on the Army would split the Baltic states' united front and allow Russia to take different approaches to the conclusion of agreements with Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

OMON, Caucasian Traders Clashes Reported*PM2408144392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 3*

[Vadim Belykh report: "Azerbaijani Traders and Moscow OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] Fighting Among Themselves, and Russian Population in Baku Could Suffer"]

[Text] "The Moscow OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] is getting ready to resettle all Azerbaijanis from the Russian Federation capital within the next two weeks. In response, the authorities in the Transcaucasian republic are planning to do the same to the Russian population in Baku,"—that was how many people interpreted the brief report, carried on the Ostankino Television morning news 18 August, on the press conference given by Azerbaijani Minister of Internal Affairs Iskender Gamidov. Just what actually happened?

Fuad Gadzhiev, press attache at the Azerbaijani permanent mission, told us that isolated phrases had merely been extracted from the minister's speech. In actual fact Iskender Gamidov had talked about the increasing OMON raids against Azerbaijanis at Moscow markets and other trading centers. The minister also talked about information reaching him to the effect that "...these actions will be continued."

In the event of Transcaucasian traders suffering further blows from the special purpose militia, the sovereign republic's minister does not rule out the possibility of "outbursts of popular anger aimed against the large Russian community in Baku."

But, it turns out, questions of "big-time politics" do not come into it at all. And Baku's Russian population is being threatened not by "well-known forces" but by the situation prevailing around street [stikhiynny] trading in Moscow. For Azerbaijani emigres (who have largely monopolized this trade), all these markets and stalls are a way of making a living. For the militia they represent places that are clear sources of crime. Hotbeds of drug trafficking, extortion, and banditry... This conflict was seen most vividly at the meeting a few days ago between representatives of Moscow's ethnic communities and OMON commanders.

Whereas the statements by the chairmen of the Armenian and Georgian communities were calm and lodged no special complaints against the OMON, Tofik Guseynov, leader of the Azerbaijani community, was scathing and demanding. He wanted to obtain from the militia...trading conditions and security guarantees. Why was he demanding this from the OMON? Because, as was clear from what the chairman of the Azerbaijani community said, he and his comrades simply see no other forces capable of influencing the trading process in Moscow. And if nothing changes, Tofik Guseynov does not rule out the possibility that Moscow could be turned into a Beirut or another Nagorno-Karabakh in the future.

In response, OMON Deputy Commander Vyacheslav Kozlov noted that he and his subordinates are fighting crime, and that people's nationality makes no difference to the special militia. The main thing is what they have done. And he cited the following figures. In the first six months of this year they arrested 178 criminals in Moscow. Of these, 107 were of "Caucasian nationality." These figures show, on the one hand, the "internationalism" of the OMON and, on the other hand, the higher crime rate among newcomers from the South. The latter, Kozlov added, resist arrest more frequently than others. This is the reason for the tough line taken against them. But, Kozlov noted, the OMON has not planned and is not planning any special actions against the Azerbaijanis, and has received no orders to that effect.

The fact that there is little order at the markets—to put it mildly—and that it is not only honest entrepreneurs who gather there, was illustrated when the deputy OMON commander said that, during the latest OMON operation at the Dorogomilovskaya market, OMON men had identified more than two dozen unregistered new cars and 11.5 million [currency unspecified] in unclaimed money. Neither the cars nor the money have yet been reclaimed from the militia...

Incidentally, this meeting was a dialogue of the deaf. Because these representatives of Moscow's ethnic communities regrettably have no influence on their newly arrived fellow-countrymen (who are the people engaging in the trade and who include a high percentage of people with criminal leanings). Just as, incidentally, the OMON itself does not determine policy, but merely follows orders...

Another question: How can militia operations be tied in with the security of a civilian population located thousands of kilometers away from these Moscow markets? Unfortunately, there have recently been too many statements about the possibility of turning Moscow into a "disaster area," a Los Angeles, Beirut, or Nagorno-Karabakh.... After all, if—God forbid—the situation were to ultimately explode, everyone would suffer. Everyone except those who had begun it—the drug dealers, bandits, and extortioners....

Agricultural Developments, Figures Reported*LD2308030392*

[Editorial report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports not previously reported on agricultural developments monitored from CIS and Baltic sources from 20-22 August. Items are listed in chronological order by republic. Sourcelines and processing indicators follow each item.

RUSSIA

About 30,000 tonnes of the new harvest have been delivered to silos in Altay. Most of it, 25,000 tonnes, is winter rye. Oats and peas are also being delivered. Most of the grain has been coming from the foothills and

eastern rayons of the kray. In other regions, rain has slowed down the threshing and delivery of the grain. (Summary—Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 20 Aug)

Lack of fuel continues to hold up harvesting in Altay. To date, one-tenth or 0.5 million hectares of grain has been harvested. Only half the grain has been threshed. Attitudes have improved with increased procurement prices and farm workers are stepping up deliveries of grain. Seventy-thousand tonnes of good quality rye have been sent to the elevators of Altay Kray. (Summary—Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 20 Aug 92)

The most important period of the harvest in Altay has come about. The grain growers of the largest granary in Siberia have begun moving and threshing the main food culture—strong, hard, and valuable brands of spring wheat. The yield of wheat on more than 2.5 million hectares is not a bad one this year, but it will be difficult to bring it in. Frequent August rains and the delays in the supply of fuel are in the way. (Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Aug 92)

The unstable weather in Voronezh Oblast has complicated the solution of an excruciating dilemma for many farmers. What is to be done with the new harvest? In total, across the oblast, only one third of the mandatory deliveries of grain to the state reserves have been carried out, given a yield of 22.4 quintals of the hectares. (Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 22 Aug 92)

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, 8.5 million tonnes of grain have already been delivered to the reception stations. This makes up 50 percent of the state order. The average yield is 30.7 centners per hectare. This was reported by the chairman of the state committee of grain products of Ukraine, Oleg Persiyonov. (Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Aug 92)

The state granaries are being filled with the grain harvested in Lugansk region. Altogether the farms have already delivered to the state more than 400,000 tonnes of high quality grain. That makes up 62 percent of the plan. The harvesting campaign is about to be completed: 9,000 hectares of cereal crops remain to be gathered in. (Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 22 Aug 92)

Statistics Cited for Spread of Private Farms

PM2108135592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 19 Aug 92 First Edition p 4

[V. Nefedov report under the "Statistics" rubric: "The Private Farmer Is Alive and Well! The Sovkhoz Too"]

[Text] Disputes about farmers are not dying down. Conflicting opinions about their future are frequently expressed.

What is the real situation in the private farming movement in Russia and other CIS countries? As of 1 August of this year, there were 133,000 peasant (private) farms in Russia, of which 84,000 came into existence only this year. Russian private farmers account for 5.4 million hectares of land, or 41 hectares per farm.

The high level of activity in the formation of private farms in Russia is connected with the implementation of the land reform, which involves the redistribution of lands, their privatization, and the reorganization of kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhozes [state farms]. By the beginning of July of this year, a total of 8,400 kolkhozes and sovkhozes, or around one-third of the total number, had been reregistered in Russia. The collectives of 3,700 farms (44 percent of those that were re-registered) decided to preserve their former status, whereas the others preferred other forms of farming. A total of 23,300 private farms, 300 public joint-stock companies, and 2,800 limited partnerships and joint associations have been formed during the process of the reorganization of kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The greatest number of peasant farms was registered in the southern areas of Russia—Krasnodar Kray (11,000), Rostov, Saratov, and Volgograd Oblasts, and Stavropol Kray (between 4,000 and 6,000). The smallest numbers (200-400) were in the Komi Republic, Krachayevo-Cherkessia, Chuvashia, and Kabardino-Balkaria.

Relatively large private farms (mainly for the pasture of livestock) have been established in Astrakhan, Volgograd, Orenburg, and Chelyabinsk Oblasts and Altay Kray (on average between 60 and 90 hectares per farm), as well as the republics of Buryatiya (104 hectares), Tuva (126 hectares), Kalmykia (490 hectares), and Chita Oblast (164 hectares).

The private farming movement is also gaining strength in the majority of other CIS countries. As of 1 July of this year a total of 9,600 private farms had been registered in Ukraine (19 hectares per farm), 1,800 in Belarus (19 hectares), 7,800 in Kazakhstan (274 hectares), 7,300 in Kyrgyzstan (55 hectares), 4,400 in Uzbekistan (8 hectares), 284 in Moldova (3 hectares), 230 in Azerbaijan (44 hectares), 100 in Turkmenistan (10), and four in Tajikistan (16 hectares). In Armenia the majority of public-sector farms have been transformed into peasant farms, of which there are 229,000 there, but, when you calculate the land per farm, not many have more than 1 hectare.

ITAR-TASS Reviews Press for 22, 25 Aug

LD2208062492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0609 GMT 22 Aug

[“Press Review”—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 22 TASS—By ITAR-TASS:

The central topic in today's newspapers is the news conference held in the Kremlin on Friday [21 August] by

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and dedicated to the anniversary of the triumph of the forces of democracy over coup plotters.

The press singles out the Russian president's words that he is firmly convinced that "there will be no new coup in Russia". At present, there is no such force that could decide to take the plunge, he said.

Yeltsin admitted that the democrats, following their triumph, proved disunited, which enabled conservative forces to consolidate. The president voiced confidence that as a result of a fair ruling which, he expects, will be issued by the constitutional court, "the conservative forces will be in low spirits while the democrats will hearten up".

In response to a question about the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Yeltsin emphasized that he believed and continues to believe in the CIS. Moreover, in his view, one can observe "evolution towards CIS states' drawing closer together, not to self-isolation, as was the case at the beginning of the formation of the CIS".

Touching upon the situation in Abkhazia, where blood was spilled after Georgian troops had been brought there, Yeltsin declared in favour of the territorial integrity of states in the former Soviet Union. He said the president does not intend "to involve Russia in the Georgia-Abkhazia confrontation" and hopes that the conflict will be settled politically.

In answer to a Japanese journalist's question about ways to resolve the territorial problem between Russia and Japan, the president said that he had "12 versions of approach" to the issue. He said he would finally explain his position on the second day of his visit to Japan.

In his concluding remarks at the news conference, the president pointed to large-scale aid which West European countries, primarily Italy, Germany, Britain, France, as well as the United States and Canada, give in the pursuance of the policy of reforms in Russia. In his view, Japan's support could have been greater.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (the Independent Newspaper) carries a survey findings according to which President Boris Yeltsin and Vice-President Aleksander Rutskoy enjoy the greatest trust of people.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Mikhail Gorbachev who considers Erich Honecker to be "guilty" of all events that took place on the territory of the former East Germany before 1985.

Further Review

LD2508051192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0443 GMT 25 Aug 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 25 TASS—The situation at the flashpoints of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is the principal topic in today's newspapers of Russia. They widely comment on the development of events in Abkhazia (a republic which is part of Georgia) where an armed confrontation between the Abkhazians and Georgian military formations has been observed.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (the independent newspaper) reports that "volunteers from the North Caucasus get to Abkhazia by mountain pathways, bypassing Russian border guards". The newspaper carries a decree by the president of the Confederation of the Highland Peoples of the Caucasus and the Confederation's parliament chief, in accordance with which "a transfer of volunteers to the territory of Abkhazia for an armed rebuff to Georgian aggressors" has been launched.

Valeriy Khatazhukov, assistant to the Confederation's president, told the newspaper that volunteer detachments are being formed in the North Caucasus.

Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's State Council, whose statement the newspaper runs, described the decree as a "fascist, unprecedentedly cynical document" which "in point of fact declares a war on Georgia". According to Shevardnadze, no positive changes have been observed in Abkhazia.

PRAVDA reports the latest news from the autonomous republic. A spokesman at the press service of the Abkhazian parliament told the newspaper that Georgian troops have not been withdrawn from Sukhumi, Abkhazia's administrative centre, and the movements of Georgian troops give ground to speak about the beginning of preparations for an assault of Gudauta, where members of parliament and government of Abkhazia are staying.

"What is happening in Abkhazia signifies aggression, occupation and the removal of the lawfully-elected state bodies of the republic of Abkhazia from power," Russia's People's Deputy Sergey Baburin, who recently visited the republic among a Russian parliament delegation, said in an interview with the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

Meanwhile, fighting in Tajikistan's south does not cease. More than 20 people were killed over the past week in Kurgan-Tyube region where clashes on an inter-clan basis take place, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA observes.

The newspaper reports an aggravation of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the towns of which have been subjected to ruthless bombardment in recent days. Azerbaijani aircraft released 500-kilogram bombs over the city of Stepanakert on August 23, killing 10 and injuring 18 residents of the city. "Previously such bombardments were of sporadic nature, whereas now large populated areas of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic are being totally destroyed," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out.

Newspapers again raise the Kuril Islands issue. That the islands belong to Russia is being disputed by Japan. Under the headline "We Do Not Trade in the Kurils" PRAVDA carries a picture story by its correspondent. The newspaper quotes lawyer Vladimir Kazantsev, an expert on international affairs, as saying that President Yeltsin's acknowledgement that he has 12 versions of a solution to this acute problem, the versions which he conceals from the people of Russia, only proves that the president reverts to the policy of secret diplomacy that was characteristic of tsarist Russia.

In July last year a group of the most influential political figures called on the peoples of the Soviet Union to launch a Movement for Democratic Reforms. Following

a founding congress in December, such a movement that loudly declared itself began markedly to fade away, and many of its founding fathers, upon having taken in the new political situation, left their brainchild in the cold doorway of the CIS and went home, professor Igor Smirnov, co-chairman of the Democratic Reform Movement, laments in RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA.

PRAVDA strongly criticises the government's policy in the field of grain prices. It points out that "the prices of cereals have again been converted into a political bludgeon". The newspaper notes that the government has not been able to find clear-cut criteria for the fixing of grain prices, thereby deceiving farmers.

Yeltsin Promises 'Necessary Steps' in Abkhazia*OW2408191292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1830 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has stated that he will take necessary steps to settle the conflict in Abkhazia and promote the beginning of negotiations between the opposing sides. On Monday [24 August] the president held an extraordinary meeting of the Russian Security Council to discuss the situation in Abkhazia. According to press secretary of the president Vyacheslav Kostikov, participants in the meeting stressed the need to settle the conflict by political means as soon as possible. They also outlined a set of measures to speed up the stabilization process in the region.

Yeltsin Message to World Economic Conference*LD2408122892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1012 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Aug—"Russia has embarked on transformations based on economic reform and the quest for new forms of ownership. We are in dire need of well-grounded forecasts on getting out of the economic crisis. World scientific and economic achievements should serve us not only in work but also in deed." This is stated in a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the participants in the 10th world congress of the international economic associations, which opens today.

After seven years of attempts, only at the beginning of this year did Russia embark on really radical economic reform, Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin declared at the congress. In his opinion, the basic course of the government is to achieve an efficient economy and true freedom of the individual. Russian actions are attracting the attention of broad scientific circles of the whole world community, without whose serious comprehensive aid it is difficult to manage. In this regard, the world economic congress, being held for the first time in Russia, will help Russia in its desire to enter the world community on equal footing. Shokhin said.

Kozyrev To Attend London Talks on Yugoslavia*OW2408160192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1449 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Report by Andrey Borodin; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As DP's [Diplomatic Panorama's] correspondent learned from a source in Russia's Foreign Ministry, the leader of Russian diplomacy Andrey Kozyrev will fly to London on Tuesday [25 August] to attend a conference on former Yugoslavia. The conference is expected to

gather all the parties involved in the long politico-military conflict as well as spokesmen for the countries and organizations interested in resolving it.

Participants in the conference include permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, G-7 member states, nations that border on Yugoslavia, officials from the CSCE, from the Commission of European Communities, from the Nonaligned Movement, Islamic Conference and the like. All of them, along with ministers and leading officials from the former Yugoslav republics, will speak at the conference as representatives of the various sides.

According to the source, preliminary contacts have shown that the present situation on the international and intra-Yugoslav level presents a good opportunity to search for mutually acceptable solutions concerning human rights, borders, ethnic autonomies, and the like.

The London conference is expected to culminate in the signing of a final document on the principles of resolving the entire range of problems concerning former Yugoslavia. The source in Russia's Foreign Ministry says that the possibility of forming at the conference a special committee to supervise compliance with the agreements is not ruled out.

Russia has in that region its traditional interests and certain leverage, and it intends to take a most active part in the search for a mechanism designed to carry out the conference's proposals, the diplomat said.

On Tuesday A. Kozyrev will arrive in London where he'll confer with the heads of a number of delegations. The conference opens officially Wednesday morning.

Kozyrev Advisor Views Conference on Yugoslavia*LD2508043592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0350 GMT 25 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Aug—Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian foreign policy department, is going to Great Britain today. The three-day international conference on the former Yugoslavia which will examine the whole complex of problems connected with stopping the bloodshed and achieving a peaceful settlement there is opening in London on 26 August. Galina Sidorova, the Russian Federation foreign minister's adviser on political issues, stated to an ITAR-TASS correspondent before departure that it is precisely in jointly working out concrete conditions for the peaceful settlement of the problem that we see the main task of the London conference. The Russian side does not view the meeting as some sort of a trial, continued Galina Sidorova, where someone will be punished for some mistakes. "We are hoping that in London we will make a step forward in our search for a peaceful solution to heal the bleeding wound of the Yugoslav question."

Galina Sidorova said that at present a concrete and realistic "action plan" has been worked out. It is expressed in a number of prepared projects and documents which, according to her, are "mutually acceptable." Evidently, some additional suggestions will be made, she continued, but the basis for practical and concrete actions for the peaceful solution is already there. We are hoping, she stressed, that in London a committee or some other body will be set up to exercise control over implementation of the decisions adopted by the conference. It is precisely on the question of exercising control over implementation of the adopted decisions, she stressed, that we are tightening our position.

Shokhin To Ask G-7 To Defer Debt Payments

OW2408172592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1613 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin has said that a Russian delegation will meet with G7 officials this week to discuss Russia's debts.

Speaking at a working conference of the government with local administration officials Shokhin said that "even in the wake of the agreements Russia concluded this summer deferring its interest payments on foreign debts and reducing the debts proper the volume of payments due in 1992 exceeds hard currency revenue from exports two to three times".

Shokhin said the government was going to terminate the freeze of accounts in the "Vneshekonombank" (about 10 billion dollars) the USSR owed to Russian enterprises. Shokhin said that domestic hard currency loan securities will be issued for a term of 15 years at an annual interest of 3%. The government has already submitted the plan to the Russian parliament.

Shokhin believes that the absence of a legal basis scares away potential investors into the Russian economy. He said the government was going to establish special financial institutions to attract Western capital. The distribution of investment will be done on the competitive basis: all those wishing to get credits will have to gain support from a bank and then pay 15% of the credit in advance in keeping with accepted world practices.

China's Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

LD2408174892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1714 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—Chinese Defence Minister Colonel-General Qin Jiwei arrived in Moscow on Monday [24 August] evening for an official visit at the invitation of the Russian defence minister. At Sheremetyevo-2 Airport, the Chinese defence minister and his party were welcomed by Russian Defence Minister

General of the Army Pavel Grachev, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Wang Jinqing and Russian military commanders.

The Chinese guest's programme for Tuesday envisages the meeting of the two defence ministers during which there will be an exchange of opinions on bilateral cooperation in the military and military-technical areas, ITAR-TASS was told at the press centre of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The visit will last till August 31.

Situation on Russo-Chinese Border Viewed

PM2408124392 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 2

[Interview with Major General Anatoliy Andreyevich Makarov, chief of staff of the Far Eastern Border District, by Valeriy Usoltsev; place and date not given: "Chinese Vodka, Soviet Customs, Russian Border"—first four paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Before my meeting with Major General Anatoliy Makarov, chief of staff of the Far Eastern Border District, I read reports on the situation on the Russian-Chinese border:

"The border guard unit command... has handed over to the Chinese side four PRC citizens who were arrested while illegally fishing on Russian territory. A few days before, three Chinese fishermen were arrested here for a similar infringement."

"Chinese fishermen, who were illegally trading in fish in the Amur River's waters, greeted a border cutter by attacking it with stones and empty bottles. The detail needed a great deal of strength, tolerance, and courage to evict the violators from our territorial waters."

There is a multitude of reports like this. And this at a time when mutual relations between our states are improving. Is the situation on the border really so complex? My conversation with Maj. Gen. Makarov began with this question.

[Makarov] The situation on the Russian-Chinese border is really complex, but violations of the border regulations are not committed just by the Chinese side, unfortunately. Our compatriots also attempt to make illegal trade deals and cross the border. For example, the border detail put a stop to a mutual exchange between border village residents V. Kravchuk, I. Kiperush, and V. Kur-tak, and some Chinese citizens. The Russians wanted to exchange tractor spare parts, vehicle headlights, and watches for... Chinese vodka.

Incidentally, it is in order to obtain vodka that many other violators of the border who live in the Russian border area try to cross to the other side of the Amur and Ussuri Rivers.

[Usoltsev] How many violations have been recorded in all?

[Makarov] Several hundred violations of the border regulations have been committed on the territory of the Far Eastern Border District since January this year. This is significantly higher than it was during the same period last year. Let me say straightaway that most of the violations are nevertheless committed by the neighboring side. However, it must be noted that they are all of a mundane nature, so to speak, and not of a political nature. We have not discovered any stepping up of intelligence activity by our neighbors either.

[Usoltsev] So what about the Chinese fishermen's resistance to our border guards? I read about this in the reports. Furthermore, our neighbors were recently not very friendly to the crew of a border guard cutter whose engine failed and which was carried to the Chinese part of the water and ran aground. And another example. Our fishermen were rounded up by "colleagues from the other side" and spent several days there in pretty bad conditions....

[Makarov] Such incidents do take place. But this is primarily because banditry and hooliganism are an international concept and do not recognize borders. At times both the Russians and our neighbors simply do not know how to behave. Notably, in the case of our fishermen, this was to a certain extent a reciprocal—though illegal—step. After all, when the Russians caught the Chinese in their waters, they inflicted a kind of mob law on them.

All these events, and they are fortunately isolated cases, are receiving the attention of the local administrations—both ours and the Chinese administration.

[Usoltsev] I hope that these incidents are not resulting in any casualties?

[Makarov] Fortunately they are not. And I will repeat that the violations of the border are of a purely mundane nature.

[Usoltsev] And which sections of the Russian-Chinese border are the "hottest" so to speak?

[Makarov] First and foremost the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, the Khabarovsk and Vyazemskiy areas—places where the border passes through rivers which are rich in fish, and where there are many islands and canals.

[Usoltsev] The present draft to the Army did not go very well. No doubt the Border Guard Troops will also be short of new recruits?

[Makarov] The Far East posts are indeed very short-staffed. Every border guard has to perform service both on his own behalf and on behalf of the guy who was not called up, so to speak. So we will make more extensive use of new technical devices and guard dogs in the protection of the state border. Apart from vehicles, we intend to introduce horses in all the posts to achieve

greater mobility. We are hoping for assistance from the inhabitants of the border area population centers....

[Usoltsev] What about the Cossacks? After all, as far as I know, the Ussuri Cossacks have been announcing their desire to help the border guards in every possible way; they virtually intend to take whole sections of the border under their protection....

[Makarov] The Far Eastern Border District has a positive view of the Cossacks as assistants in the protection of the border. But as far as entrusting separate sections of the state border to them is concerned... There are certain doubts here. After all, this matter requires special training. Furthermore, this would mean that the Ussuri Cossacks would have to be armed. Can every Cossack be relied on to keep weapons without putting them to use when there was no state need to do so? After all, there are what you might call hot-headed people among them. Guys like that organized a fight with Chinese fishermen last year. You can easily imagine what might have happened if the Ussuri men who were fighting for the good of Russia in general had been armed at that time. But we will give every support to the desire of the Cossacks to train their children well for service on the border.

[Usoltsev] A meeting between Russian and Chinese border guards at district commander level was recently held for the first time in 40 years. Did the visit by Major General Tang Zuohou, commander of the People's Liberation Army Heilongjiang Military District, result in anything positive?

[Makarov] Definitely. We discussed the problems of the border area, prepared a protocol on the terms and procedure for bilateral relations between commanders and border missions [pogranpredstavitelstvo], reached agreement on coordinating action in the observance of the border regulations, and resolved a number of other questions which will help improve the situation on the Russian-Chinese border.

[Usoltsev] Have no further steps been taken in this sphere since then?

[Makarov] A group of officers, sergeants, and men from the Raychinkhinskiy Border Guard Detachment visited the Chinese border guards literally in the last few days. They familiarized themselves with their colleagues' lives and everyday conditions, and measured swords in sports competitions.

The whale spawning season is approaching. The two district commands, ours and the Chinese command, have decided to carry out joint Russian-Chinese border patrols on the Amur and Ussuri Rivers with the aim of clamping down on violations of laws on catching cartilaginous fish in foreign waters.

Yeltsin Aide Holds Preparatory Talks in Japan

*LD2408122492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0958 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Aug—"Intensive consultations are under way on the territorial problem in Russian-Japanese relations, but there are not any final decisions yet," Yuriy Petrov, head of the Russian president's administration, who is here now within the framework of preparations for the visit by Boris Yeltsin to Japan in September, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He held talks today with Hisashi Owada, Japan's first deputy foreign affairs minister.

According to Petrov, during this meeting he expressed the position of the Russian side on the territorial problem in bilateral relations and expressed Moscow's opinion on "what measures should be taken in the future." Refraining from defining precisely the position of Russia on this moot point in bilateral relations, the head of the presidential administration noted that Moscow "intends to take constructive steps on the territorial problem." At the same time, he stressed that Russia will stick firmly "to its own positions in all questions of Russian-Japanese relations."

Petrov noted that discussion of the agenda for the forthcoming visit to Japan by the president of Russia was the central question of his meeting with Japan's deputy foreign affairs minister. "There are still some aspects which need to be clarified and agreed further, but there is still time before the visit," the head of the presidential administration said. "The main thing is that both sides are striving to do everything possible to ensure that the visit is beneficial for both Russia and Japan. That is to say, all questions of mutual interest, including those which up until now have darkened Russian-Japanese relations, must be discussed."

Speaking about Russian-Japanese economic cooperation, Yuriy Petrov pointed out that negotiating this issue is difficult. "The Japanese side keeps making even the preparation of the economic agreement between our countries fully conditional on the solution of the territorial problem. This will, of course, involve additional discussion." The Russian side advocates putting the economic cooperation of the two countries on a firm foundation and setting up an appropriate bilateral committee on economic links. "We believe that the Russian-Japanese economic cooperation is not going to be one-sided," the Russian presidential administration head underlined. "The former USSR and Russia have major accomplishments in a whole number of areas. We are prepared to generously share our knowledge and expertise. We are inviting Japan for healthy, equitable economic cooperation."

Petrov said that in the course of the upcoming visit by President Boris Yeltsin, a package of eight to 10 bilateral

treaties are expected to be signed. "Originally the Russian side suggested nine agreements embracing cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian fields, space research, and a number of other areas, but the ironing out and consultations are still going on."

Khasbulatov Views Ties With Japanese Governors

*LD2408132992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1301 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—The signing of a peace treaty between Russia and Japan should be set apart from other, disputable problems," Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov told a delegation of Japanese governors during a meeting in the Russian parliament house here today.

Khasbulatov stressed that "problems of peace among nations are not something to be haggled about." Otherwise the stance of the two countries can be viewed by the world community as immoral.

Khasbulatov stressed that "people in the Russian parliament raise both hands to vote in favour of a prompt signing of a peace treaty between our countries. It seems unnatural to me as a politician and a scholar that there is no peace treaty between Russia and Japan at the end of the 20th century."

Khasbulatov praised peacemaking ideas proposed by the National Council of Japanese Governors and confirmed his own stand on bilateral relations set forth during the last year visit to Japan by a Russian parliamentary delegation.

Kunadze Rejects 1855 Treaty on Disputed Islands

*OW2208013192 Tokyo KYODO in English
2321 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 21 KYODO—Russian Vice Foreign Minister Gregory Kunadze has said for the first time that Russia rejects the 1855 Russo-Japanese Treaty of Amity which admits disputed four islands off Hokkaido as Japan's territory, the conservative daily RAB-OCHAYA TRIBUNA reported Friday [21 August].

But Kunadze said Russia approves the 1956 Russo-Japanese Joint Declaration in which Russia pledges to return Shikotan island and the Habomai group of islets when the two countries conclude a peace treaty.

In an interview carried by the daily, Kunadze said that if Russia admits validity of the 1855 Amity Treaty between Japan and Russia, it has to return four disputed islands to Japan.

The islands are Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group.

The amity treaty delineated the Russo-Japanese frontier between Etorofu island and Urup island. As a result, the

Japanese Government cites the 1855 treaty as one of the reasons for Japan's claim over the four Russian-held islands.

Observers said Kunadze disclosed Russia's rejection of the 1855 Amity Treaty because President Boris Yeltsin is unlikely to offer during his scheduled visit to Japan in mid-September a new position on the return of Kunashiri and Etorofu.

Kunadze also said Russia cannot approve the amity treaty since Russian citizens have been living on the four islands since the end of World War II, the daily reported.

Kunadze is scheduled to come to Japan later this month to prepare for President Yeltsin's scheduled visit.

Russia, Turkey Consider Black Sea Organization

PM2408141792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Maksim Gan report: "Moscow and Ankara Ready To Set Up Interparliamentary Assembly for Black Sea Countries"]

[Text] The speakers of the Russian and Turkish parliaments have agreed to start specific preparations for the creation of an interparliamentary assembly for the Black Sea states, which will primarily help to develop economic cooperation in the region.

This was stated by Husamettin Cindoruk, chairman of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, in a brief interview with journalists following his talks with R. Khasbulatov, head of the Russian parliament. Cindoruk was on a week's visit to Russia heading a delegation of Turkish parliamentarians at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman's invitation.

"I can see no obstacle to developing Russo-Turkish relations, which are going through the brightest period in their history," H. Cindoruk said. "As parliamentarians, we are trying to give them additional impetus." The interparliamentary assembly of the Black Sea states—the idea for which was conceived by the speaker of the Turkish parliament—should provide political support for the process of cooperation in various areas. As the chairman of the Turkish Grand National Assembly put it, trade turnover between the two countries already runs into several billion dollars. "All the economic factors are in our favor, and I am sure that by the year 2000 trade turnover will reach 10 billion [currency not specified]," he noted.

If one takes account of Russia and Turkey's interest in strengthening peace and stability in the Black Sea region, the idea of setting up an interparliamentary organization becomes particularly important. This question was also discussed during the Russian parliamentary delegation's visit and at the meeting between President B. Yeltsin and Prime Minister S. Demirel.

As H. Cindoruk said, the leaders of all the Black Sea states are positive about the idea of such an assembly. Even though, at the recent Istanbul meeting, representatives of the 11 Black Sea countries were unable to achieve unanimity on specific forms of cooperation. It is even planned to set up something akin to the EC and to unite financial structures. H. Cindoruk believes that close interparliamentary ties will expand the opportunities for collaboration among all participants in the assembly—above all, Russia and Turkey.

At a subsequent meeting with H. Cindoruk, Yegor Gaydar, acting head of the Russian Federation Government, said that political and economic relations between Russia and Turkey were developing dynamically, particularly noting the cooperation in the power generation and military-technical spheres.

A delegation headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary to the Russian president, will set off for Turkey in the very near future. As Gaydar put it, the delegation will engage in the practical resolution of the problems of developing bilateral relations and, in particular, will raise the issue of Turkey's participation in the modernization of the port of Novorossiysk. For its part, the Russian Government is prepared to increase shipments of natural gas. Turkish Premier Suleyman Demirel has also expressed an interest in this.

Both sides attach great importance to the current visit. The Turkish delegation includes lawmakers representing the country's main political forces—the True Path Party, the Motherland Party, and the Welfare Party. In the past year in particular, R. Khasbulatov noted during his talks with H. Cindoruk, the Russian side has started devoting a great deal of attention to bilateral relations. "Turkey is one of those countries with which the priority importance of relations is in no doubt," Khasbulatov said. The program for the Turkish parliamentarians' visit includes meetings with members of the Russian Government and sightseeing in Moscow and St. Petersburg. A meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin is also planned.

Defense Minister Denies 'Deserters' in Hungary

OW2208001192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1550 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian defense minister refuted reports of the German press agency DPA [DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR] that "one thousand deserters from the Russian army" are currently located within the territory of Hungary. A statement which INTERFAX received from the ministry's press center emphasized that the southern group of troops were fully withdrawn from Hungary in 1991. At the time of withdrawal no more than three military personnel and one civilian worker left the troops' location. According to the defense ministry, there are currently no Russian military personnel in Hungary.

Agricultural Affairs

Yeltsin Establishes 'Federal Grain Fund'

LD2408204292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1944 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 24 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has taken additional measures to guarantee that the grain of the 1992 harvest will reach the population and that there will be guaranteed supplies of grain products.

On the basis of a decree that has just been signed by the president, a Federal Grain Fund [Federalnyy Fond Zerna] is being established; its capacity will be such that it will satisfy the Russian Federation's consumption of grain and grain products. The presidential press service reports that the fund that is being set up will help reduce speculation in grain and to better satisfy with grain products the Russian territories that do not produce grain and that possess limited opportunities for its production, as well as the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The Federal Grain Fund will be made up from grain purchases in the Russian Federation itself, the CIS countries, and from imports of grain from abroad.

Economic Affairs

Government Conference on Progress of Reform

LD2408141992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1355 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—The Russian Government is discussing the progress of economic reforms in the Russian Federation at its working meeting currently held in Moscow.

A document submitted for discussion says that the implementation of economic reforms is being carried out in a difficult situation.

The document says that a critical situation in the economy was caused by the collapse of the financial and monetary system, disruption of economic ties, monopolisation of the economy and the absence of a competitive medium.

To implement the strategy and deepening of the economic reform in the regions, the following measures are suggested: Executive bodies of republics, regions and districts of the Russian Federation should complete within a month time working out regional programmes of transition to market relations taking into account priority directions of economic transformations.

Recommendations were given to a number of ministries and departments to prepare a document on the division of powers between federal authorities and executive bodies of republics, regions, districts and autonomous formations.

The meeting considers it expedient to recommend to the Russian Government that the next Congress of People's Deputies consider lengthening the term of powers of

regional, district and autonomous administrations, appointed by the Russian president, until new elections are held.

The document comprises a number of concrete recommendations for practical implementation of the economic reform on the spots in the field of taxation policy, land reform and working out a system of assessing the progress of economic reforms in the regions.

Gaydar Admits 'Serious Mistake'

OW2408192092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1831 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The division in the rights of state and privatized enterprises was a serious mistake by the government, which must be immediately put right. Acting Chairman of the government Yegor Gaydar announced this at the close of a workers' conference "On the Course of Economic Reforms". He also concurred with statements made at the conference that the government's propaganda work was extremely ineffective. "Of course, we will not establish a Ministry of Propaganda or a Department of Propaganda and Political Agitation," said Gaydar. "However, I believe our task now is to show that, although it has been difficult, nonetheless things are moving, and moving forward." He warned that unemployment will increase sharply in the last months of this year. "But we will somehow find the funds for unemployment benefits and special programs in the struggle with unemployment," promised Gaydar.

He also stated that the government supports a strengthening of the status of head of administration and will try to convince the Supreme Soviet not to hold the elections for heads of administration scheduled for December 1, but to simply extend their mandates for a specified period.

Says Fuel Prices To Remain Controlled

OW2408135492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1259 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fuel prices will not be liberated this year, acting Chairman of the Russian Government Yegor Gaydar told "IF" [INTERFAX] in Moscow Monday. Gaydar declined to disclose a time frame or level of price increases saying that "advance disclosure of price increases, in particular for oil, will cause speculation and the subsequent disappearance of oil products".

At a working session of the government with representatives from local administrations on reform in local governments, the acting prime minister outlined the main results of the first stage of reforms to create a commodities market and "eliminate the shortage of resources". Gaydar said "the economy is gradually adapting to market mechanisms of control" and said that the situation remains complicated as the lag in production continues. The acting prime minister believes "unemployment will undoubtedly grow in September" mainly effecting the defense complex.

Chubays on Privatization

LD2408222292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1909 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—"We are not going to give way to panic. The results of the last year have shown that contrary to previous forecasts the rouble is really working in Russia, and its financial system is operating," the Russian Premier Anatoliy Chubays [title as received] said at a conference on "the progress of the economic reform" in Moscow on Monday.

Chubays said that the preservation of the financial system in Russia has helped to prevent Russia's split into self-governed territories.

Under conditions of the working financial system we can set forth a second task of transforming the very form of property, Chubays added.

He noted that a total of 4,242 state enterprises will be subject to obligatory privatisation in Russia. Under the president's decree, these are enterprises whose fixed assets are worth over 50 million roubles and which have over a thousand of employees.

Over 1,312 enterprises have applied for privatisation by August 15. One of the reasons impeding privatisation is their (enterprises) debts, Chubays said.

Chubays believes one of the most serious tasks to carry out privatisation is the creation of investment funds.

"We believe these funds should be created on a private basis. Competing private investing funds will enable citizens to choose more favourable options for investing privatisation checks," Chubays said.

Touching upon the problem of foreign investments, Chubays pointed out that this problem should be resolved at a principally new level.

"We proceed from the assumption that the unique programme of carrying out people's privatisation has aroused a tremendous interest of foreign investors," Chubays said.

"The most important thing for the perestroika of foreign investments is the decentralisation of the process," Chubays pointed out.

Shokhin on Need To Defer Foreign Debt

LD2408203592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1954 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—A conference of heads of the countries of the Group of Seven (G7) with a Russian delegation will be held in Paris this week to discuss, specifically, the "approaches to the restructuring of Russia's foreign debt". Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government, announced this on Monday at a conference

held by the Russian Government "on the course of the economic reform in the provinces".

Shokhin said that the burden of the country's foreign debt is extremely heavy. The volume of obligatory payments, even after the deferments and the reduction of the debt granted this year, is twice or thrice as large as foreign currency receipts from the export. The balance of payments deficit runs into nearly four billion dollars. The Russian economy cannot be expected to function normally unless the payment of the foreign debt is deferred. Therefore only priority payments, for instance, on grain credits, are made at present, Shokhin said. He noted that even a slight delay in payments to Canada and Australia resulted in the stoppage of grain shipments and "Russia had urgently to look for resources to make the payments".

Meeting Hears Extent of Debt

LD2408141492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1315 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Excerpt] A conference devoted to analyzing the economic reform at the local level opened in Moscow today. Here is a report from Mayak correspondent Valeriy Panfilov:

[Panfilov] The center of gravity of economic reform is currently shifting to the regions. All the necessary legal and financial foundations have been created there for its successful implementation. That is a quotation from the speech by Valeriy Makharadze, deputy chairman of the Russian Government, at the opening of today's conference on the progress of economic reform.

What Makharadze said was backed up by Anatoliy Chubays, another deputy chairman of the government. In his opinion, whatever the difficulties of the first half-year, the country's financial system and the ruble, its basic monetary unit, are in working order. It is only thanks to this that it has proved possible to resolve agricultural problems. Chubays said that the campaign this year has been not for the harvest, but for its prices. For example, the government announced that compilation of lists of citizens for receipt of privatization checks is to begin on 28 August, and that the first auctions to sell shares not only in baker's shops, but also in industrial giants, as the vice premier put it, are to begin on 1 December.

The address by Russian Finance Minister Vasily Barchuk created quite a different feeling. To date, the budget deficit in Russia amounts to almost 1 trillion rubles. The budget for the second half-year is burning with a red flame, according to the finance minister, and threatens to show a deficit of 2 trillion rubles by the end of the year, which is tantamount to hyperinflation. For that reason, the majority of state programs are being cut back or concluded. [passage omitted]

Support for Government Voiced

LD2408220392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1939 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Aug (TASS)— Despite some critical remarks to the government, the participants in the conference on the course of the economic reforms on the provinces, held in Moscow on Monday, supported the course of the cabinet. Most representatives of regions who addressed the conference expressed the opinion that the Russian Government has acquired enough experience to implement the programme of deepening of the reform. Konstantin Zatulin, the chairman of the Bourses Union, believes that "the present cabinet of ministers is capable of working effectively."

Criticism addressed to the government related mainly to the implementation of specific practical steps of the transition to the market. Heads of enterprises suggested that the cabinet create more favourable conditions for manufacturers by adjusting the tax policy. Representatives of the agrarian sector complained that the land reform proceeds with difficulty, mainly because of the imperfection of laws and normative acts on land.

Heads of regional administrations demanded more rights. They noted that the emphasis has now shifted to reforms in regions and urged the government to work more actively with local executive authorities.

Academician on Need for Privatization

LD2408190892 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1751 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Vadim Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—The Russian Government is firm about the implementation of the economic reforms, but the results achieved are so far much lower than what has been planned. Academician Oleg Bogomolov said this on Monday inaugurating the tenth World Congress of the International Economic Association (IEA). He believes that considerable erosion of the living standards gives one a sense that the country's population is living through a new social and economic experiment with unpredictable consequences.

Delivering a report to the forum on prospects for the development of the market economy, Bogomolov said that the government is adjusting the course but keeps from seriously analysing the reasons why the reforms are slow. Meanwhile, experts estimated that the continued decline of production in the current year may reach 30 per cent, and the stabilisation planned for mid-year is not in sight. The living standards fell by half, while the initial plans allowed for their overall lowering by only 30-35 per cent. The reaction of the state sector to traditional monetarist methods was inadequate. Instead of enhancing the efficiency of production, monopoly enterprises prefer to spiral prices, deliberately choosing a crisis of overproduction and non-payment.

In present-day conditions it is important for the government to create additional stimuli for effective production, gradually to introduce market structures and perfect the competitive medium, Bogomolov said. Privatisation is the key process. It will finally make it possible to turn lumps into

proprietors. The success of the reform opens to Russia the prospect for being incorporated into world economic relations, Bogomolov said. But there is a high probability that the population whose patience is wearing thin will be unable to hold out for an extended period of the "shock therapy" (two or three years) and will refuse to put up with the unfair distribution of the wealth during the so-called "nomenklatura privatisation".

Change in Course of Reform Urged

OW2408194392 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1831 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Famous Russian economists expressed doubt in the acceptability of government economic reform programs for Russia and warned of the real threat of economic collapse. Oleg Bogomolov, appearing Monday at the World Congress of the International Economic Association in Moscow predicted a 30% reduction of industrial production by the end of the year (according to a prediction from the Ministry of Economy, the decline will not exceed 20% - INTERFAX).

Bogomolov, the elected Vice President of the International Economic Association, called "dramatic" the declining standard of living for the majority of Russia's population. He claimed the average standard of living in Russia fell "at least" 200% in 1992. "A significant part of the population is threatened with poverty and malnutrition," said the academician. According to Bogomolov, the cost of living in large Russian cities increased by 2000-2500% this year, while salaries rose only 700-800%. The population's limited consumption has reached a critical level, which could exhaust patience and "give rise to dissension," said the academician.

Bogomolov believes there are few purely fiscal measures to overcome the situation, but that a sharp increase in the amount of merchandise on the market is essential. He emphasized that the government's current stringent tax policy "is strangling manufacturers."

Academician Stanislav Shatalin, another prominent Russian economist attending the Congress, in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, called the state's intervention in the process of economic reforms "insufficient" and advocated a wider use of long-term planning methods.

In answer to a question on the ability to satisfy the IMF's recommendations, Shatalin said, "To achieve a no-deficit budget in Russia or to reduce it to 5% is an illusion." According to Shatalin, soon Russia will not be able to avoid bread subsidies and the support of military and industrial sectors and the army.

The academician believes the government course is in need of serious corrections. Otherwise, "a reform crisis is inevitable and the government will be doomed," warned Shatalin.

Labor Ministry Aide Fears Spreading Unemployment*LD2408191592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1803 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Podyapolskiy and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow August 24 TASS—A sharp increase in the number of the unemployed is expected in Russia by the end of the current year. Fedor Prokopov, chairman of the Employment Commission of the Russian Ministry of Labour, said this on Monday at a conference devoted to the course of the economic reform in the provinces. He predicted that the unemployment rate may reach two or three per cent of the able-bodied population.

So far the unemployment rate is within "socially-comfortable boundaries" of 1.5 per cent, Prokopov said. But alarming tendencies for the spread of unemployment manifest themselves. The unemployment rate increased four-fold from January to June, while the number of vacancies decreased by half. In a number of Russian regions, several officially registered unemployed compete for one vacancy. Six per cent of the unemployed have been in search of job for over six months.

Prokopov admitted that the statistics do not reflect the real situation fully. People who were sent on leaves have not been taken into account. According to approximate estimates there are about one million of such people. Serious problems will be posed by their return to work after the leaves. Pockets of unemployment may form. In this connection he urged the government and heads of the administrations of regions, territories and autonomous entities to work out a set of preventive measure so that the worsening of the situation as regards employment should not lead to a social conflict.

Chubays on Reorganization of State Enterprises*OW2108143892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1351 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Moscow today, Anatoliy Chubays, a Vice-Premier and the Chairman of the State Committee for State Property of Russia, said the reorganization of state-owned enterprises to make them joint-stock ones and the parallel introduction of privatization checks (vouchers) would make millions of people property owners, ensuring the irreversibility of economic reforms in Russia.

According to Chubays at least 6,000 large and medium-sized enterprises are to be made joint-stock companies by the end of 1992. The government is planning to reserve 35% of the shares of all enterprises which are to be privatized to sell them for privatization vouchers, the issue of which will be started this October.

The face value of each voucher will be 10,000 rubles.

Chubays said that with a voucher one can buy shares or part of the property of the enterprise where one works; or buy

shares in other enterprises, including at auction sales; or exchange it for share certificates in private or state funds.

He did not think the issue of vouchers to a total sum of one trillion rubles would give a new impetus to inflation. "The checks stand for the property of state enterprises," he said. In his opinion, vouchers can only be depreciated by the failure of the program of privatization of enterprises. He was sure 70% of enterprises would become joint-stock companies within a period set down in the Russian President's relevant decree.

Government To Make Sweeping Changes in Imports*OW2408181092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1625 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sweeping changes to import regulations can be expected next year, according to Deputy Governmental Chairman Aleksandr Shokhin, at an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] correspondent Yevgeniy Terekhov. Shokhin's forecast was influenced by "a radical amendment to the system of attracting and utilizing foreign credit".

"Up to the present", the vice-premier said, "foreign credit has always been distributed from the centre, in fact just given away. Also, the very criteria for distributing this credit were hampered by administration and bureaucracy." Shokhin said that henceforth, investment credits would be given out only under bank guarantee with the authorisation of the Central Bank of Russia to deal with hard currency under the condition that 15% of the credit would be paid back in cash in advance. Merchandise credit would be sold on a market basis.

At the same time, Shokhin pointed out that the state would maintain subsidies for the purchase of certain goods, above all medicines, foodstuffs, and types of raw materials and assembly parts without which industry would be crippled. However, he was in favour of forming a unified control mechanism for the expenditure of budgetary resources.

Shokhin stated that the government is expecting a fall in demand for imported products. He said that the loss-making import of some types of merchandise and products is reducing the potential for home industry to develop.

Shokhin also said that there would be a government session on August 27th devoted to discussions of next year's food product purchases.

Political Affairs**Shakhray Reviews Year Since Coup Attempt***OW2508084092 Moscow Central Television First
Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT
18 Aug 92*

[Interview with S.M. Shakhray, people's deputy of the Russian Federation, by Sergey Goryachev; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Goryachev] We are continuing our program and with great pleasure I would like to present our studio guest, Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakh-ray, a people's deputy of the Russian Federation. Good morning, Sergey Mikhaylovich, and welcome.

[Shakh-ray] Good morning.

[Goryachev] You are a well-known person in the democratic movement, and last August you were at the forefront of the defense of the White House. You practically wrote many of President Yeltsin's decrees during those days. In the past few months people have associated you very closely with Yeltsin. Your name always appears alongside his. Please tell me, do you remain a Yeltsin supporter today to the same degree as before? And do you consider yourself a member of Yeltsin's team?

[Shakh-ray] I will make my answer brief. Yes, I am his comrade-in-arms, and no, I am not a member of his team.

[Goryachev] What has changed?

[Shakh-ray] The formal status, my formal status has changed. The political state of affairs has changed over the past year.

[Goryachev] What I was driving at was, are there some political elements that you do not agree with and is this why you no longer consider yourself a member of Yeltsin's team?

[Shakh-ray] Unfortunately, there were always many elements of that sort. Enough has been said about the reasons for my departure from the government and from my position as state adviser. Besides, when I stepped down I said that I will continue to help the president if there is a need, while concentrating my time and energy on the job of being a people's deputy. I have enormous (?responsibilities) before my voters and this obligates me to take up my deputy's mandate.

[Goryachev] Very good. Of course, I have a lot of other questions. But I will ask them after we take a look at the following interviews which my colleague Aleksandr Zarayelyan recorded on the streets of Moscow especially for our talk today. Let us have a look. [video cuts to show interviews with unidentified people on Moscow streets]

[Begin video recording] [First Man] The SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency]? I had a negative attitude about it from the outset.

[Zarayelyan] Speak up, please.

[First Man] I said my attitude to it was negative from the outset. I recall when it happened on the 19th, I was at work. I work at the metals plant in Yaroslavl. Work stopped immediately and we wanted to go to help the Russian Government. We got over it all after a while, and now a year has passed and it seems to me that everything has been forgotten. It does not even come to mind anymore. There are a few things that have changed, because at first everything was extremely unfavorable. It could be that this is because life is becoming increasingly difficult. Maybe this is why things changed.

[First woman] Of course it was frightening. First of all we knew that there were tanks in the street. We were very distressed. But the Muscovites were not as distressed as we were in the provinces. We were horrified.

[Zarayelyan] What do you think now that a year has passed? What is your attitude to the SCSE, to the members of the SCSE?

[First Woman] I do not think that they were criminals. You need to understand, my opinion is that some individuals wanted to pull the country out of a pit.

[Zarayelyan] Are you satisfied with the past year?

[Second woman] With the past year?

[First Woman] Not entirely. It was difficult. It was even harder to live.

[Second Woman] It was a difficult year. I do not know, but of course we are hoping for better times, for normal times.

[First woman] At any rate, it has become hard to live in Vladivostok, it is very difficult.

[Zarayelyan] How do you assess what is happening in the country today?

[Second man] Generally, my attitude is positive. It depends on your viewpoint. In my case I think things are positive.

[Zarayelyan] You consider that things are going the way they should and that everything will be normal, right?

[Second man] Yes, everything should come in due course.

[Zarayelyan] So the SCSE is of no interest to you? It came and went, is that it?

[Second man] It has already been forgotten.

[Zarayelyan] What is your opinion?

[Third man] Just the same. It was a change to something new, to the market. That is more important. [end video recording]

[Goryachev] Those interviews in the streets of Moscow were recorded by my colleague Aleksandr Zarayelyan. Different opinions were voiced, yet there was one thing in common among them: The reforms in Russia have been unsuccessful. That is what many people think, and it would probably be incorrect to ignore this. Sergey Mikhaylovich, do you agree with this?

[Shakh-ray] I would like to say that it has been a year...a year has passed since August. At the same time it has been a little over half a year since the reforms were begun. This is not a sufficient period of time to celebrate these events, or to draw conclusions and talk about failure. I think that the maximum that can be done, and should be done, concerning the past year is to remember those who died, to pay respects to the courage of these people, and to analyze the situation in the political and economic spheres. But I would refrain from conclusions at present, particularly such categorical ones.

Now, if you paid attention to the scenes that we have just watched, the views expressed were fairly typical. There was

an understanding of the fact that something important has been started, and dissatisfaction that little has been achieved. It was very typical.

[Goryachev] Very well. Now the French say that it is easy to establish a republic, but where do you find republicans? In fact where do you find republicans if, say, after the reforms people have still not received any property and the majority have still not become masters of their lives? In your opinion, who can President Yeltsin and the reformers rely on now—on which elements of the Russian population?

[Shakhray] I think that this is the most important issue. You see, our population, the population of our country, still has nothing but its chains. It is not weighed down with the burden of property. People have nothing to lose. They are ready to be revolutionary, yet if their hopes are not fulfilled they are equally prepared to become radical or conservative, and even reactionary. So the question of property is really the main issue.

Now if land reform were successful and if there were, in quotation marks of course, a forced distribution of property, then the democratic reforms would acquire a basis. People who have something to lose are the foundation of a stable state. They need strong laws, they need firm order, and they have a need for the state, a democratic state.

[Goryachev] Nevertheless, what levels of the population do you think may support President Yeltsin? As you know, his popularity is declining. A year ago it was 90 percent, and now it is about 30.

[Shakhray] I think that people who form the so-called Third Estate [Tretye Sosloviye] are the most reliable supporters of the president and of the reforms being pursued by his government. They include farmers and entrepreneurs and people who have developed a taste for property through the auction process, a feel for the results of their labors. The rest of the population, the majority I am afraid, is presently divided down the middle. One half are people whose patience has ended. Their consciousness has been traumatized by the breakup of the Union and the loss of very many historic perceptions, and they are already prepared to join the camp of the National Patriots. The other half continue to persevere and hope because, for them, there is no turning back to the past—even a radiant past is worse than illusory freedom.

[Goryachev] Well, reforms here are closely associated with Yegor Gaydar, with his name. Now it is interesting that THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, the American newspaper, writes that for Yeltsin to fire Gaydar would be tantamount to recognizing his own mistakes, and Yeltsin will never do this. Do you think this dependence of the president on Gaydar really exists?

[Shakhray] I do not think that there is any rigid dependence. That is why the presidency and the government exist separately, as two centers of executive power. As a matter of fact, at the Sixth Congress in April there was an episode during which, after a week of fierce criticism, there was a retreat, an understanding that there is nothing with which to replace the criticism. At that point Yeltsin could have made

Gaydar and his government, by legitimate law...[changes thought] he could have made Gaydar the premier.

Of course, the loss of Gaydar will be a painful blow, if this were to happen...

[Goryachev interrupting] You say it will be, but you mean would be?

[Shakhray] I said if this were to happen...because two major factors are associated with his name. First of all, the ability to act, even if mistakes are made, and second, the image of Russia abroad. These are very important factors, although of course Gaydar's dismissal would mean no more or no less than the dismissal of the government during this difficult transitory period.

[Goryachev] Sergey Mikhaylovich, I would like to refer to what you said in the press two months ago. At the time you foresaw and predicted three possible scenarios in the development of events in Russia: first, Yeltsin is removed from power by the Congress of People's Deputies via a constitutional process; second, Yeltsin is removed unconstitutionally on a wave of universal discontent; third, the necessary measures are adopted, the president remains in power, and reforms are developed. It was the last version you considered the most feasible at the time.

Please tell us, have the measures you spoke about at the time been adopted? And in connection with this, do you continue to assess the third scenario as the most feasible?

[Shakhray] Yes, I continue to consider the third scenario to be not only the most feasible but possibly also the most desirable. When I made that analysis I also said we have until about the beginning of December. Today is 19 August, so the time limit has not yet run out. If we talk about what has been done concerning the measures I proposed, then unfortunately not much has been accomplished. But some things have been done. At any rate, we have managed to move the privatization program through parliament. There is now a legal basis for the measures we noted, that is for the legal distribution of property. As a matter of fact, the president can do a lot in this area by 1 December through his decrees.

In talking about the third scenario, I would like to recall once again the measures I feel are most essential, for the faster they are adopted the better. First of all, there needs to be a change in attitude toward property—the distribution of land, shares, and enterprises; the auction process; and so forth. I would say the second measure is to make public the plan for mobilization measures, measures through which the population will understand that the president and government have certain calculations concerning foodstuffs which will ensure our survival until spring. The president and government have a plan for winter preparations. For us, winter continues to be a natural calamity.

The president and government have a plan to combat unemployment. For instance, the workers in major enterprises and the military industrial complex are guaranteed three, four, or six months at full pay—it depends on their pay scale. Then for some months they will receive reduced

pay, and the government will give them time during which they can transfer to other structures. A system of social work must be developed. I have said this repeatedly. It should be along the lines of what Roosevelt did in the United States. We have unlimited resources for road construction work which could employ millions of people for the entire transition period of conversion. We also have the program for defending the poor.

These are the measures that need to be made public today. After all, the most frightening thing is not what we have failed to do. Everybody understands it is very difficult to get out of the hole we are in. The most frightening thing for the population is the unknown. What will the authorities do? The primary task right now is to dispel the unknown.

The next step—the third measure—is a set of actions aimed at fighting crime. In particular, we must wisely and prudently use the officers of the Army who are facing retrenchment. The fourth set of measures is related to the fact that in principle the president, government, and parliament must stop arguing among themselves and adopt the patriotic idea, in the best sense of this word, that Russians have only one choice—the revival of Russia, regardless of ethnic or social affiliations. I think all of us in our society must be given comprehensible slogans—freedom, order, property, and the revival of Russia. The majority of the population can unite around these slogans.

[Goryachev] Let us talk about the political fate of President Yeltsin. How do you think the decisions of the Constitutional Court regarding the legality of his decision concerning the Communist Party will affect the likelihood that, if his decrees are found to be unconstitutional, Yeltsin might resign? Or is this impossible?

[Shakhray] I spoke about this. There is an interdependence here, but it is not straightforward. It lies in the fact that even the most ardent defenders of the CPSU do not harbor any particular illusions about the revival of the CPSU or the Russian Communist party in their previous form. After all, there are some realists among them.

If the Constitutional Court finds one or two presidential decrees unconstitutional, however, this would give them a certain legal basis for the scenario that you have already inquired about, for raising the question of convening an extraordinary congress at which an attempt could be made to vote for the dismissal of Yeltsin. In other words the scenario—the relationship between the Constitutional Court and the general political scene—could be like that, but I would like to remind our viewers that it was not the president of the Russian Federation who took this matter to court to try the CPSU, to shoot communists, and so forth. On the contrary, in his decrees he said that rank and file communists are not subject to any persecution. The past year has confirmed this.

The communist idea is alive and well, and communist parties may be established. In fact, I think six of them have already been registered. So it was the political opponents of the president—the deputies—who petitioned the court to use this scenario to remove the president.

I hope our cause is right and lawful, and the chances to uphold the president's decrees are sufficiently good, because he has not gone outside the framework of his powers. There are some legal rough spots, but the president did not violate any judicial or legislative powers, and it is precisely from this point of view that his decrees should be assessed.

[Goryachev] Please tell us, can we expect any unexpected surprises on the part of Yeltsin in the near future that could sharply boost his popularity and strengthen the people's faith in reform?

[Shakhray] You know, the most unexpected step the president could take now—and this is my personal point of view—is to take the steps and do what the population expects him to, roughly along the lines of the scenario I have outlined.

[Goryachev] Sergey Mikhaylovich, I have a personal question. Doesn't a desire arise in you sometimes to quit politics and simply walk away from it all? After all, the work is very difficult, and as far as I know it is not yet very gratifying.

[Shakhray] Well, I have a fairly strong reserve of energy, and I suppose that since I am, after all, a deputy elected by the population until the end of my term in office, I am not bothered too much at night by thoughts of quitting politics.

[Goryachev] Well, as far as I can see, it does not bother you too much in the morning either. Thank you for taking part in our program. I would like to remind you we have been talking with Sergey Shakhray, a people's deputy of the Russian Federation. Once again, thank you very much, and all the best.

[Shakhray] Thank you.

[Goryachev] And now we continue our program....

[Shakhray interrupting] I hope you will not be showing Swan Lake today. [alluding to the ballet that replaced scheduled programming on Moscow television on the day of the coup attempt]

[Goryachev] Well, we have in fact already played it. I suppose you were not in our studio at the time and did not see it, but we did it in a rather humorous way.

[Shakhray] I must have missed a lot.

[Goryachev] Yes, I suppose so. Thank you once again.

Power Struggle Predicted in Early Fall

*PM2408132092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Aug 92 First Edition pp 2, 4*

[Vladislav Bokhovkin, Vladimir Serebrinnikov article under the "Political Forecast" rubric: "Labyrinths of the Struggle for Democracy"]

[Text] The course of events in the country suggests that at the beginning of the fall there could be a significant stepping up of the struggle between various political forces.

The stepping up of the struggle will apparently be launched by the discussion, at the next session of parliament, of the

government's "Program for Deepening Economic Reforms" and the final version of the Russian Federation Constitution. The reasons for this stepping up of the struggle lie in the failure of the government's amended program to meet the needs of dynamic recovery from the crisis in the economy and the interests of a large section of society. The results of the discussion could be: a) rejection of the "Gaydar" program and adoption of an alternative program; b) birth of a "hybrid" (compromise) program, or c) no program is adopted, but a commission is set up to draw up a program, and this commission will submit its proposals to a Congress of People's Deputies, convened ahead of schedule.

In this situation it is highly likely that the government will surrender its powers to the president, and in the event that the cabinet's resignation is accepted, the president will propose a new cabinet and present the government chairman for approval by parliament.

In this context the blocs of factions could put forward their own proposed government and propose it to the president and parliament.

In the event that the government crisis is not resolved, the early convocation of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies is inevitable.

The president could propose a government on the basis of agreement between the three leading political and economic elites—representatives of industrial and business circles, the new government and civil service nomenklatura, and major political blocs which are engaged in energetic activity to step up their influence on the president.

In our view the most promising and preferable option is objectively a strengthening of the positions, in a possible new government, of the Civic Union, whose basic support consists of the All-Russia Renewal Union (A. Volskiy, A. Vladislavlev), the People's Party of "Free Russia" (A. Rutskoy, V. Lipitskiy), the Democratic Party of Russia (N. Travkin), and a number of parliamentary factions. They draw on the support of experienced, skilled economic leaders and entrepreneurs and the pragmatically minded section of engineers, technicians, specialists, the intelligentsia, and workers. Public opinion polls show that the population gives significantly higher preference to this sober-minded section of society than to political movements and the present government authorities, which are increasingly demonstrating their inability to govern.

The country's public is impressed by the fact that this union sets the task of avoiding revolutionary upheavals by means of actively implementing a fundamentally new reform policy which would protect the working people's interests against price and tax tyranny, achieving economic stabilization, overcoming the crisis, and developing industrial potential.

The Civic Union's position has been brought to the attention of the Russian Federation president, with a proposal to discuss a detailed program of action in the economy and the social sphere and cadre support for this program.

The course of the economic and political struggle could entail substantial shifts in power. Thus, if constructive cooperation ensues between the president, government, and parliament, the authorities could strengthen and increase the effectiveness of their actions. The stepping up of the internal struggle could sap the authorities' powers and lessen still further their effectiveness and ability to control processes in the country. Or, finally, there could be a transition to a new system of power (a new political regime).

It is in society's interests to secure the first of these possibilities, that is, the strengthening of all branches of power (executive and representative). But this possibility is being undermined by the growing antiparliament campaign, for which the tone is set by certain presidential circles and the political organizations that support them, and also by the mass media under their control. They are creating a new enemy image, in the shape of parliament. By all appearances, despite the more flexible formulations concerning the fate of the Congress of People's Deputies that were voiced by the president at the Constitutional Commission session, he is still inclined toward speeding up the dissolution of the Congress, which is declared to be an "artificial supraparliamentary formation." The package of amendments made by B.N. Yeltsin to the draft Constitution is basically aimed at a reform of power, in the direction of authoritarianism.

The majority of scenarios formulated by authoritative scientific centers for the development of the sociopolitical situation in Russia in the near future envisage military force becoming involved in tackling domestic problems. The nonviolent option—the most desirable—is seen as the least probable, but still with a relatively good chance of being implemented.

As for involving the Army in internal affairs, this could be done for the following purposes:

- to maintain constitutional order, when the law enforcement organs and internal troops have exhausted their potential (clamping down on mass disturbances; disarming illegal armed formations; preventing and stopping military conflicts, forcible regional disintegration, and so forth). It is not ruled out that mass disturbances could be provoked in order to bring about the establishment of a tough regime;
- to accelerate the reforms by force;
- to bring about the switch to a new political regime (authoritarian—i.e. presidential—rule, and tough methods of dealing with the opposition).

The arbitrary use of military force could be promoted by the concentration of monopoly power over the Army in the president's hands and the slackening of control by parliament and sociopolitical forces, and by the absence of a mechanism and procedure enshrined in legislation for decisionmaking in this area. The prerogatives of the representative power in this sphere are being appropriated by unconstitutional bodies—the Security Council, the State Legal Administration, the apparatus of regional governors, and so forth.

The trend toward the strengthening of personal power, if it comes to pass, could lead to the degeneration of the political regime. The objective and subjective preconditions for this exist.

In our view, this turn of events would inevitably lead to the widening and deepening of social conflicts and clashes and provoke the internal disintegration of the Federation.

As a result of mass actions, there could be a change in the system of power, a change dictated by forces of a pro-fascist orientation.

The press will play a growing strategic role in the coming struggle. Whoever has most influence on the press will have most chance of success. Aware of this, the supporters of authoritarianism want to bind the mass media firmly to themselves, and in the main they have achieved this. However, the public is increasingly aware that a large part of the mass media are mere puppets, patently serving just one side. The creative section of media workers senses the inadequacy of one-sided and therefore unobjective coverage of the state of affairs in the country. All this creates the prerequisites for reorientation and disintegration among the mass media. Antiparliamentary themes predominate at present. The public takes an increasingly mixed view of this.

A subject of keen fighting in parliament will clearly be the president's amendments to the draft new Constitution, submitted at the Constitutional Commission session held at the end of July this year.

Parliament, which represents society's needs and interests more fully than any other organ of power, is called upon to play an enormous role in bringing about a positive resolution of the acute and pressing questions of overcoming the crisis in the country.

Now more than ever before, it is important to activate parliament's links with political blocs, parties, movements, trade unions, and youth and women's organizations, organizing, before the start of the session, a series of parliamentary hearings on their positions on the proposed programs for extricating Russia from the crisis, improving the people's lives, maintaining a stable atmosphere in society, and resolving the problems of power exclusively by constitutional means.

Servicemen Remain Under Suspicion Over Coup
PM2508083592 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 20 Aug 92 pp 1, 3

[Anatoliy Stasovskiy and Aleksandr Pelts report: "There Has Been the Afghan Syndrome, the Tbilisi Syndrome... There Should Not Be an August Syndrome. KRSNAYA ZVEZDA Correspondents at Taman Guards Division a Year After the August Events"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] So here we are at the Taman Division. It was not the desire to unmask or clear the name of anybody in particular which brought us here, but an urge to find out how the Taman Motorized Infantry Division is doing today...

Today the division has a new commander. He is Valeriy Yevnevich, a guards colonel. The previous commander was transferred a few months ago to a new duty position. The commander and I talked about many things. About the past and the present. And it became clear from his very first words that the new commander too was concerned about the situation surrounding the division.

From a conversation with the division commander, Guards Colonel Valeriy Yevnevich:

"The second round of attempts to foist all responsibility for the tragic events of August 1991 on servicemen from the division has begun. Only a little while ago we thought we had finished with this. But once again the press is shifting the blame for the supreme leadership's actions onto us.

"At the beginning of August this year the Russian Prosecutor's Office sent summonses to the division commander, the regimental commander, and other officers. Imagine their psychological state: Everything had seemingly been cleared up, then suddenly all over again...

"For many, including myself, it was strange: Officers and ordinary soldiers carried out an order without exceeding their powers and worked out the situation despite the complete lack of any kind of information, yet people are trying to make them out to be criminals.

"Recently I was visited by the wife of Lieutenant Colonel Naletov, a guards regimental commander whose men carried out patrol duty in August 1991 on the Sadovoye beltway. Her hands were shaking: Was it happening all over again? We just about managed to calm her down, saying that it was simply that the Prosecutor's Office needed some additional information. But how could Naletov himself keep calm? Especially as all this was taking place against the backdrop of a particular situation. We sent a submission for the regiment commander to be given his rank ahead of schedule. This was held up for some reason. Immediately people in the regiment began to say: This is the result of last year's events..."

You have to respect the investigation. It is the right of the prosecutor's office to reopen or to close it. Especially if some additional facts and evidence have appeared. In this case it was the significant change in emphasis in the case which served as the impetus for reopening the investigation. As the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office told us, responsibility for the tragic events should be pinned not on the ordinary soldiers and officers, but on those who adopted the decision to bring the troops into Moscow.

But it is strange that the officers who have been summoned now not as defendants but as witnesses have been forced for the umpteenth time to repeat the same thing, explain their own actions and their subordinates' actions, and justify themselves. Who will comprehend and appreciate their position? In the meantime the prosecutor's offices, first of the city of Moscow, now of the Russian Federation, are calling on the officers of the Taman Motorized Infantry Division to serve as witnesses. [passage omitted]

From a conversation with Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Naletov, a guards regimental commander:

"There are two sides to any problem. Why do people forget this? People search for culprits where there are none and could not be any. Why is it not customary to mention how the regiment's officers, soldiers, and noncommissioned officers maintained their self-control and did not respond to even the most serious of insults when people all of a sudden began to throw stones and iron bars at them, douse in gasoline, and call rude names. Neither I nor my men wanted to carry out a coup d'etat in order to seize power. We tried to prevent bloodshed. There was nothing else in our thoughts.

"Indeed, is there anything to discuss at all when all the officers before the collision under the bridge were concerned primarily with how to prevent traffic accidents in the city, while about 30 percent of the drivers in the regiment were at that time young ordinary soldiers, how to organize their men's food and leisure, and where and when to dry uniforms after the rain. These are the thoughts, at first sight banal, which preoccupied us all. And to be honest we were shocked that people saw us as enemies."

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that people have attempted to make the Army out to be a submissive monster prepared to commit any crimes. Remember the Tbilisi and Afghan syndromes. The politicians who started everything off slipped into the shadows. The Army was crucified. The Army which had yet again become hostage to an adventure and to some people's ambitions and narrow mercenary interests. Most probably, you can now talk about the August syndrome as well. [passage omitted]

Stepankov Urged To Keep Silent on Coup Probe

*PM2408114192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 1*

["Commentary" by Andrey Kolesnikov: "Jurisprudence: 'Political' Arguments? What Prosecutor Can Permit Himself"]

[Text] The leader of the press service of the General Prosecutor's Office has been forced to deny a TASS report of the resumption of the preliminary investigation into the case of the SCSE [State Council for the State of Emergency]. This alone attests that the hullabaloo over the SCSE case and consequently around the Russian General Prosecutor's Office has, on the anniversary of the putsch, exceeded all reasonable bounds.

Paradoxical as it might appear, the flames have been fanned by the numerous interviews given by General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov, who, probably annoyed by attacks on the prosecutor's office from both "right" and "left," has sounded off in the press almost with the zeal of a journalist. Matters reached the point where he promised by the anniversary of the putsch to publish "our" (?) verdict "in the form of a current affairs article." At the same time Stepankov referred to the relevant article of the Criminal Procedure Code allowing the data of an investigation to be

made public with the permission of the prosecutor, provided that such disclosure does not damage the secrecy of the investigation. As far as I recall, this is the first time that a prosecutor has given himself permission to divulge the material of an investigation...

On the one hand, one can only feel sincerely sorry for Stepankov: He has indeed in a certain sense become a political hostage. Absolutely everyone suspects him—some of sympathy for the SCSE members, some, on the contrary, of prejudice against them. But we should hardly make some kind of innocent "lamb" of such a major figure as the general prosecutor. Stepankov has, without a doubt, a very definite line of political conduct, even if we agree that the SCSE case is being investigated strictly in its legal aspects, and, in the words of the prosecutor general himself, the investigators take into consideration only the "criminal aspect" of the case.

The difficulty of Stepankov's position also lies in the fact that the legal basis of a future trial is extremely shaky. This mainly concerns the description of the criminal actions of the SCSE "octet." It is no accident, for example, that the charge against Anatoliy Lukyanov is to be reformulated for the third time (although, as far as I know, the nature of the charge in this case differs from the charge leveled against the "official" SCSE members). In addition, it is rather difficult to tailor Article 64 of the Russian Criminal Code to fit what happened in August 1991: The previous legislation was not adapted to the criminal investigation of coups d'etat. Any competent lawyer would be able to prove equally well both the groundlessness of the juridical claims against the men under investigation and the obvious need to convict them under Article 64. Therefore, however we curse or justify Stepankov, the "pressure" of the political situation will influence both the end of the preliminary investigation and the course of the trial itself.

On the other hand, Stepankov's political position can hardly be discovered from his interview with STERN. Possibly, as Valeriy Rudnev suggested (IZVESTIYA 15 August 1992), the general prosecutor is indeed "shielding" the ex-USSR president and demonstrating a touching agreement between P. Grachev and Ye. Shaposhnikov. But neither the one nor the other demonstrates definite political sympathies on Stepankov's part or possible changes in the course of the investigation or the position of the general prosecutor himself.

The best thing that Valentin Stepankov could do today would be to refrain from exacerbating an already "explosive" situation. It is inappropriate for a general prosecutor to "switch" from the law to journalism. In the final analysis, if the prosecutor believes that the men under investigation are giving too many interviews and are appearing too often in print, he has the power to halt this process to some degree. I know from my own experience that it was initially practically impossible to get permission to interview any of the prisoners of "Matrosskaya Tishina."

Interior Ministry Steps Up Anticorruption Drive
OW2108143992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1346 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Over six months of this year, the RF [Russian Federation] interior bodies have started 375 criminal cases on corruption charges. The figure is cited in a report to IF [INTERFAX] from the RF Interior Ministry's Public Relations Centre.

202 criminal cases have been initiated against corrupted state administration officials, 19 lawmakers and 2 court officers included.

The Interior Department intensified this campaign in April in the wake of the RF President's decree "to fight against corruption in the state service system". As a result, 97 executive officials have been dismissed and 82 others have been held responsible.

The report underlines that much attention is paid to the exposure of "double agents and traitors" among the Interior Ministry personnel. Two senior officials of the RF Interior Ministry have been arrested in the Moscow region for the illegal issuance of permits to representatives of commercial structures to carry and store fire arms.

Potential Threat to Press Freedom Examined
PM2408141192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Yuri Feofanov article: "Is Our Democracy Taking a Leninist Path?"]

[Text] Very crudely, the outline of a democratic society may be pictured as follows. Legislators and the government are concerned chiefly with sovereign interests, and in these aspirations of theirs they could well cross the bounds separating the instilling of law and order from arbitrary rule. To protect citizens' rights and preclude sundry voluntarism by the "first" powers, the democratic society creates counterweights: an independent judiciary and a free press—the "third" and "fourth" estates. In my view, the year that has elapsed from August through August is significant precisely because an independent judiciary has emerged in Russia, even if only at the top constitutional level for the time being; and the glasnost of perestroika has acquired the features of a free press.

But... Alas, there is always this "but." You get the impression that the "first" powers took fright at what they had done. Of course, they do not dare to openly go back on their word. But neither can they possibly reconcile themselves to the existence alongside themselves of state and public institutions independent of them.

Judicial power is not yet a particular cause for concern. As a system it has not yet taken shape in a new capacity; this is still to come. The president of the Russian Federation has submitted the concept of judicial reform to the Russian parliament. This document enshrines the democratic and

legal norms that can finally make the "third estate" worthy and independent. Will they all be adopted? That is the question. At least, the Constitutional Court is already worrying those who hold the control levers. Certain steps by that same president—for example, the granting of top qualification ratings to members of the Constitutional Court in accordance with Decree No. 811—has disconcerted the members, to say the least. Are these not the gifts of Greeks? During the interval in the hearing of the "CPSU case," too.

Still, it is difficult to trace any real steps infringing judicial power. Here we can only speculate. As regards the free press—the "fourth estate"—it has proved very inconvenient to the usual running of state affairs. During the times of perestroika's glasnost they gradually opened up "zones for criticism," but did not give journalists free rein.

August 1991 changed everything. Of course, when television shows, for example, the Supreme Soviet sessions half the way it is and not the way deputies would like to see it, this is irritating. When newspapers, no respecters of persons, assess the words and conduct of these persons—First Persons!—this arouses indignation.

What is to be done? The stick does not help, and carrots are not accepted. The law adopted by that very same parliament and signed by the president does not allow censorship to be introduced. The Law on the Press, which meets all world standards, is not to be repealed. But the way out seems to be becoming apparent.

It somehow almost escaped public notice that a debate was held in parliament 17 July on the question of liability for a violation of legislation on the mass media. The main speaker—M. Mityukov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee on Legislation—declared at the time:

"Unfortunately, a general shortcoming of our activity is the fact that, having provided for and adopted a good law, at the same time we have not provided for specific legal levers to implement a particular law."

Two draft laws were proposed to fill this gap, which balance, as it were, the two forces capable of influencing a powerful tool like the news media. These draft laws were submitted in the form of additions to the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Code on Administrative Offenses.

The first addition covers liability for infringing freedom of speech (the proposed Article 140/2 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code)—up to two years' imprisonment.

The second addition covers liability for abusing freedom of speech (Article 140/3 of the Criminal Code)—up to five years' imprisonment.

Well, this is stern but fair. The main speaker explained quite convincingly to the deputies the need to impose such sanctions. He pointed out that Article 140/2 is "aimed at defending freedom of mass information against encroachment by officials, against encroachment by structures of various kinds, including state structures." Article 140/3 is directed against "calls to seize power, violently change the

constitutional system, and violate the integrity of the Russian Federation..., ethnic or religious discord, social intolerance..., and so on.

But another draft was submitted to the deputies along with these additions: To supplement the Criminal Code with Article 192/2, which is called "Insulting of Top Officials in the Press." As distinct from the preceding articles, the main speaker did not comment on this one but simply said: "The code is supplemented by Article 192/2." The deputies still demanded some explanation, however. I cite from the stenographic record.

Deputy I. Galushko: "I would like Mikhail Alekseyevich (the main speaker—Yu.F.) to specify who is meant by top officials—only leaders of executive and legislative power, or does this include the general prosecutor and court chairmen? Whom else does it include? ...Does it include people's deputies and the president's representatives in the provinces, or does it not?"

M. Mityukov: "The official representatives of organs of legislative, executive, and judicial power are the leaders and deputy leaders of these organs. As regards parliament, in accordance with our Law on the Status of the RSFSR People's Deputy, a people's deputy is an official representative... The category of official representatives includes the president's representatives in the provinces."

Deputy V. Ilovskiy: "If Article 192/2 is adopted, how does the insulting of top officials differ from the insulting of ordinary citizens?"

M. Mityukov: "It will differ in only one way: If the insulting of ordinary citizens is a matter of a private charge (in other words if the citizen has not turned to a court, there is no case), then everything here becomes a matter of a public charge (in other words if such an insult has taken place, the appropriate organs—the prosecutor in particular—are obliged to institute criminal proceedings and to hold an investigation)."

This virtually exhausted the debate on the proposed new article in the Criminal Code. The thing is that parliament did not discuss to the point the additions to repressive laws—chiefly because this would have violated the standing orders: The draft laws had not gone through the necessary procedures. Still, the draft law was submitted to the Supreme Soviet, and it has to be supposed that a debate will take place at the fall session.

On the eve of the session, I would like to advise deputies to recall and reread the stenographic record of that Congress of USSR People's Deputies which removed Article 190/1 from the Russian Criminal Code as being antidemocratic. It had a more elastic title than that now submitted to the Russian parliament—"Spreading of Deliberately False Fabrications Smearing the Soviet State and Social System." But the people gave it the more accurate title of "for anecdotes."

It is probably worth comparing the texts of the two articles.

Article 190, removed from the Criminal Code: "The systematic spreading by word of mouth of deliberately false fabrications smearing the Soviet state and social system, as well as the production or dissemination in written, printed, or other form of works of similar substance—

"is punishable by imprisonment for up to three years, or by corrective labor for up to one year, or by fines of up to 100 rubles."

Article 192/2, meant for inclusion in the Criminal Code: "Insulting of top officials of the Russian Federation, as well as official representatives of top organs of legislative, executive, or judicial power in a printed work, in the mass media, in leaflets, or on posters and banners—

"is punishable by imprisonment for up to three years or by a fine of up to 50 times the minimum labor remuneration."

Somehow you do not even want to comment on these texts either for readers or for deputies. Except perhaps to ask this question: Does it turn out that we are arriving back where we started? And again. Maybe readers will recall how M. Gorbachev, who was then president of the Union, once merely hinted at restrictions on the freedom of the press, which was irritating him—what a fuss was raised! Both in parliament and in the press. But now everything has gone through quietly and imperceptibly, as though an attempt were not being made to return to the old ways. Just imagine what an extensive clan of chiefs will be protected by the article of the law and also by the "appropriate organs—the prosecutor in particular."

Yes, so far this is merely the submission of the draft law. But in *The State and Revolution* our former leader and teacher substantiated the dictatorship of the proletariat merely theoretically as "a number of removals from freedom." *The State and Revolution* is not yet Article 58 of the 1937 Criminal Code. How its theoretical investigations ended, however, is too well known: At first removals from freedom, then removals of freedom, and then... Now, when you reread the stenographic record of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session, you ask yourself this question: Is our democracy not turning onto the familiar Leninist path?

Veteran Greek Communist To Control PRAVDA

LD2408111192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1058 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Athens August 24 TASS—Greek publishers "Akademiaki" headed by veteran communist Jannis Jannikos will own a 55 per cent of block of shares of the newspaper PRAVDA, formerly the publishing organ of the Soviet Communist Party. Reports to the effect published by some newspapers in Greece and in THE NEW YORK TIMES were confirmed by the publisher in a telephone conversation with ITAR-TASS.

The Akademiaki publishers' headquarters occupies a single room in downtown Athens that looks forlorn and far from wealthy. However, Jannikos refused to discuss details of his

deal with the PRAVDA publishers and disclose the source of the considerable sum of money involved in it.

Coincidentally, local journalist Pavlos Anastasiadis recently published a book entitled *Dancing With Bears* devoted to illegal activities of the former KGB in Greece. The book charges Jannikos with maintaining contacts with Soviet intelligence agents. A few years ago, he participated in preparing the publication of *The Big Soviet Encyclopedia* in Greece. Jannikos met different Soviet officials and visited Moscow on several occasions at that time.

Poll Views Changing Attitudes Toward Leadership
OW2508062692 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0530 GMT 25 Aug 92

["Viewpoint" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Surveys conducted by the Russian Center for Public Opinion and Market Research (VCIOM) show that trust in the Russian leadership continued to decline in recent months.

The question "How has your trust in the Russian leadership changed in the past months?" received the following answers: 1,500-1,700 Russians participated in the survey each month. [figures here and below in percentages and are as received]

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Significantly increased	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1
Somewhat increased	11	11	8	12	9	7	5	7
Somewhat decreased	34	31	34	29	32	30	31	31
Significantly decreased	40	39	40	41	44	52	44	46
Unsure	14	17	16	16	14	11	14	15
Total Increased	13	13	10	14	10	8	8	8
Total Decreased	74	70	74	70	76	82	75	77

In July the number of people who didn't trust the authorities decreased by 7% from June's figure, but in August the number rose again, due to a rise in those answering that their level of trust had "significantly decreased." The number of those who trust the leadership has shown virtually no increase.

In August an analogous question was asked of participants in Ukraine and in Kazakhstan. According to the survey, the population in Kazakhstan trusts their leadership more than in the Slavic republics.

	Russia	Ukraine	Kazakhstan
Significantly increased	1	0	4
Somewhat increased	7	5	13
Significantly decreased	46	49	16
Unsure	15	19	15
Total Increased	8	5	17
Total Decreased	76	76	68

The survey was conducted by the VCIOM August 8-18. 1,695 people in Russia, 520 in Ukraine, and 500 in Kazakhstan participated.

Rutskoy Aide Complains of 'Insulting' Article
MK2408085592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 21 Aug 92 p 1

[Statement by A. Fedorov, the Russian Federation vice president's press secretary, under "Urbi et Orbi" rubric: "Vice President's Press Secretary Protests. Statement for Mass Media"]

[Text] On 20 August NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA published material entitled "What Will Happen if There Is No Russian President. On Article 121-11 of the Russian Federation Constitution," which was prepared by the Party for Economic Freedom.

This article's appearance precisely on 20 August, the day for remembering those who departed this life in the struggle for democratic transformations, is evidence of the immorality of the people who ordered and compiled it. The arguments and forecasts put before the public at large, including notions about the president's impending replacement accompanied by references to his physical condition, are not only groundless and unconstructive but also more than improper and simply insulting in relation to the Russian Federation president and vice president elected by the people. In today's extremely politicized society the Party for Economic Freedom leadership, instead of trying to strengthen solidarity and civil peace, is merely rocking the political boat with this article and trying to split Russian society, which united around Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in the memorable August of 1991.

The article shows that the Party for Economic Freedom is playing political games instead of elaborating constructive proposals on economic reforms in Russia and acquiring real economic freedom. The party, which is trying to attract society's attention by these steps, is once again showing its political immaturity.

The article is evidence that the party leadership and Mr. Borovoy personally are continuing to throw fat in the fire.

It is doubtful that, with these approaches, the Party for Economic Freedom will be able to find a place for itself

among the forces that consistently come out in favor of a constructive path of transformations in our country which is based on civil accord.

[signed] A. Fedorov, press secretary to the Russian Federation vice president. 20 August 1992.

Supreme Soviet

Referendum on Yeltsin Powers Unconstitutional

LD2408100492 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
0915 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 24 *ITAR-TASS*—The juridical department of the Russian parliament has issued a note to say "the Constitution of the Russian Federation now in force does not provide for a referendum as the basis for an early termination of the Russian president's powers".

The clarification has been necessitated by the recent influx of proposals from groups registered in different areas of Russia urging the parliament to hold a referendum in the Russian Federation with the question "do you support demand for terminating the powers of Russian President Boris Yeltsin?"

Along with the proposals, some groups have sent statements on the signature collecting campaigns in support of these proposals in a number of regions, the note said.

Committee Debates Government Appointments Bill

OW2208000992 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1818 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Legislation and First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko continued work Friday on a bill "On the Council of Ministers and the Government of the Russian Federation."

According to the bill, the chairman of the Council of Ministers would be appointed and dismissed by the President of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Supreme Soviet. If Parliament rejects the President's proposed candidate, then he has the right to name an acting cabinet head and within three months submit a new candidate to Parliament.

Members of the government are appointed and dismissed by the President according to proposals from the head of the Council of Ministers. The bill does not stipulate that Parliament must give consent on the formation of the government. The bill states that "the President has the right to appeal to the corresponding commissions of the House and of committees for their examination of the proposed candidate."

According to the bill, the decision on the government's decision would be made by the Congress of Peoples' Deputies or by the Supreme Soviet through a majority vote from the general consensus. If the President initiates the dismissal, it must be approved by the Supreme Soviet.

According to *INTERFAX's* correspondent, the debate of the bill in the Committee on Legislation will be continued on September 11 with members of the government in attendance.

Chairman of the Committee on Legislation Mikhail Mityukov announced after the session in an interview with *INTERFAX* that the developing law on the government "is of a temporary nature and is designed for the transitional period until a new constitution is adopted for the republic."

Regional Affairs

Moscow Mayor Promises City 'Will Survive'

MK2108093192 Moscow *MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA*
in Russian 19 Aug 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov by M. Polyatykin; date and place not stated: "One Is Not Rewarded With Authority, One Is Punished by Authority—Frank Dialogue: Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov Gives Interview to Our Correspondent"]

[Text] [Polyatykin] Yuriy Mikhaylovich, the art of journalistic demands that an intricate question of some kind be asked almost immediately, "head on" so to speak, in order to stir the reader's interest. I intend to ask it, but first I would like to know: Do you like such questions?

[Luzhkov] What you are really asking is whether I am too straightforward. I don't know. Although I cannot be reproached with duplicity or excessive caution in my expressions. That's the way I was born, and that's the way I was raised in the bosom of the Moscow homesteads, in the working environment of oil workers and railroad workers on a Moscow freight line, a stone's throw from Paveletskiy mainline station. I remember how, in my student years, on the virgin lands, I expounded all my thoughts on the subject of our disastrous position to a secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee when he visited us, as we would say now, for propaganda purposes.

But what need was there to spread propaganda among us? We believed so strongly, and we worked like devils—I even have a medal "For Opening Up the Virgin Lands." But I was almost expelled from the Komsomol for that speech. It is a good thing that this happened not in Moscow, but in the steppes. None of the guys in the group stood up for me. Sasha Vladislavlev, now one of the leaders of the Industrial Union, who in those days led the Moscow student detachment to the virgin lands, managed to wriggle out of this unpleasant episode somehow.

[Polyatykin] Are you talking about this in order to stress that even then you were a "democrat" and a fighter?

[Luzhkov] Sir, how you journalists love to fantasize and twist things! You asked me a question—I replied, without pursuing any ulterior motive or any secret designs. I have stressed on so many occasions already that I am not a politician but an economist, and I have no intention of joining any political parties or entering into any political games, although it falls to me to listen to a lot of verbiage on

the subject of the capital's government to the effect that I have assembled all the old guard in my team, all the former nomenklatura.

What I value in people most of all is an ability to work—I have always stood by this, and I will continue to stand by it. I am convinced that a top-level professional in an administration is very valuable, and he should be well paid. He is responsible for hundreds of thousands of human destinies, and life's comforts and relief from the unpleasant things which Moscow's population is experiencing are dependent on him.

Joe Public doesn't care about the government's problems; his needs are always specific: If there is a faucet in the apartment, then water should flow out of it regularly; if there is an outlet, then there should be electricity. Meanwhile militant "Greens" have already set fire to three tower cranes on the Severnaya TETs [heat and electricity station] project. We have been forced to enclose the building within a fence to preserve the property.

And what would you suggest that we do? Hope for a run of "mild" winters? We cannot afford to do that, as nobody could justify it when faced with a freezing city.

I will remind the champions of a clean environment that we are setting up a state-of-the-art purification system at the Severnaya TETs—the best there is in Europe—and we are laying a 230-meter pipeline to convert the TETs to a regime which is solely geared to heating residential blocks in Moscow and Mytishchi, without involving industrial enterprises. But you know, we have lost two years because of eternal discussions and wrangling from the platforms and in offices!

[Polyatykin] Your differences with Moscow City Soviet have already become the talk of the town. Above all, Moscow City Soviet is resolute in its insistence on the unconstitutionality of your appointment to the post of Moscow administration chief, and it is trying to induce you to give up your powers and to have all appointments agreed with the deputies. Where is the way out of this impasse?

[Luzhkov] The way out lies in joint efforts to overcome the differences. I am convinced, though, that such differences are inevitable between the executive and representative authorities when it comes to tactics for overcoming the city's problems; but here strategy and the ultimate aim must coincide. For us the aim is clear: to create for Muscovites the most propitious conditions for living in a huge city. But what about the deputies?

Many, although not all of them, are guided nowadays by opportunist considerations, scoring points in sight of the electorate from all kinds of scandals. Because they fear what would become of them if they were not elected for another term. They would have to go out to work somewhere, maybe retrain and acquire new skills, and you have to agree that this would not be easy after many years of sitting in a comfortable office and clutching a microphone. Their attitude is understandable.

But there is something I don't understand. The events at the Ostankino television center showed that deputies at various levels are uniting with national-patriots and procommunist, neo-Bolshevik forces, parties, and movements. Personally, I know of nothing more frightening than nationalism, which is the basis for the eruption of interethnic conflicts.

Who is the provocateur? Let's look back: Before the October Revolution, the Emir Bukharskiy lived and reigned over his own Bukhara and none of the czars cast him out or persecuted him. He ruled autonomously under the czar's command, and there was nothing wrong with that system of state structure. There was an extremely sensible balance between the statehood of the collective Russian empire and the administration in the localities and on the territories of national formations.

[Polyatykin] This could be evaluated as the utterance of a politician rather than the economist that you consider yourself to be—or that you try to present "to the public." Although people who know you are convinced that there is more to you than meets the eye. And your first steps as mayor reinforce the popular theory that you are second to none when it comes to knowing how to make enemies. Which is all that resulted from your decisions to reduce the "mayor's department" and to break up once again the health, education, culture, and sport sectors which had so nearly been brought together.

[Luzhkov] I have already commented on your talent for exaggerating an event. It is merely strange that you have not yet made mention of a "new broom." But I will tell you straight that you have acted correctly here, because I am in no way laying claim to this role, and I do not want to lay claim to it. I walked alongside Gavriil Popov from the very beginning of our road, and all appointments were made by mutual agreement. The current rearrangements were prompted purely by the desire to improve the administration structure and to reduce expenditure on it.

[Polyatykin] Are you waiting for somebody to give you something? You know, the city could earn a living on its own. Show me a Muscovite who isn't fed up with squeezing his way into subway stations through ugly rows of traders, and show me someone among us who doesn't swallow hard [plyuyetsya] in doing so and shy away from the brazen "leather boys" with their cards, dice, and primitive revolving drums.

Why is it that "persons of Caucasian nationality" who engage in free trade on every corner are not subject to crazy taxation, and why is it that Moscow is being overrun with grime from the waste produced by uncontrolled trading, and why is it that your government's own decision on fines for trading in an unauthorized place is not being fulfilled and the militiamen are acting as if nothing is happening? Even though the government banned street trade in beer, vodka, and water long ago. Does it not seem to you that the fact that your bans are being ignored is seriously denting the government's authority and your personal authority, as its head?

[Luzhkov] I never complain, you know that. Since childhood, I have never been one to worry over a battered nose or

bruises. In our place in the "Tsindel"—as the area where we lived was called after the factory owner—people valued courage, loyalty, and the ability to endure. Now this is called the ability to "take a punch."

I must point out that you threw the punch very professionally—in the most vulnerable place. Yes, we are being slow to react, and yes, the militia unit omitting to carry out its instructions and failing to fine traders at the "flea" markets are probably receiving bribes from them.

The city sanitary and epidemiological center, whose chief physician has already issued several sets of instructions on the subject of street trading, is moving unacceptably slowly and has not carried out a single major action on unofficial markets; and I, as the head of the government, seem to have nothing to react to. I do not see any detailed analyses of unofficial trading on my work desk, or any specific proposals to regulate it.

A system is now being elaborated, a scale of taxes for street traders, and we will definitely introduce it as of the beginning of next year. We know that this is costing us millions of rubles, that wine from a barrel constitutes a dangerous source of infection, and that it is criminal. How did state kvass tanks fall into the hands of private wine traders? I myself do not yet know the answers to many questions, the relevant legislative and normative acts have not yet been adopted in the Russian Federation, and there is much which remains to be corrected and organized en route. Which we intend to do.

But I will take the punch a very ordinary reason: I love my home town, I love Moscow and the Muscovites, and but for this love giving me strength I would have given up and left long ago.

[Polyatykin] But that is not likely. They say that you have gotten a taste of power and now wild horses could not drag you away from it. Many consider your career to be simply mindblowing. What is your own attitude to that?

[Luzhkov] I do not really consider my advancement a career. A career is when a senior engineer from a provincial scientific research institute becomes the chairman of a standing parliamentary commission. Now that is what I really call taking off!

Do you really think my life would be harder if I had continued working as a main administration chief and a member of the ministry collegium?

I am still asked at times if I am a gambler? No, I am not a gambler. Do you know Genghis Khan's favorite saying? "If you are afraid—don't do it, if you do it—don't be afraid." I am not a gambler because, having lost the party to the tide of time I won't be able to put anything on the horses—everything has already been gambled away. The road behind has already gone, there is only the road ahead.

As regards authority... I have always had sufficient authority, and it is not really the tasty pie that it may seem to some. Incidentally, it is unlikely that a precise interpretation of this word will be found, or indeed one single

definition of it. In the general sense, it is the opportunity to determine people's behavior with the aid of authority, the law, and force. But this is also a huge responsibility for those who in fact hand their destinies over to the powers that be by voting for them. Including for me.

No, one is not rewarded with authority, one is punished by it.

[Polyatykin] Your predecessor in the post of mayor did not respond to criticisms in the press, although he himself had items published fairly often. We learned from his articles what had to be done and how the land lay. Various publications quite often criticize you and sometimes "take a dig" at you. What is your reaction to criticism?

[Luzhkov] If I start to claim that I like it, you will doubtless not believe me. In my opinion, it is pathological to like criticism. It is quite normal that not everybody loves it. I am no exception. Nevertheless, I acknowledge objective, constructive criticism based on fact. Whatever in the long run helps in making the right decision and finding the right path.

For instance, only a slouch would fail to criticize us for the bad roads in Moscow, and we ourselves can see that the situation is dreadful. Throughout the entire winter resources were built up, right now we are laying up to 17,000 tonnes of asphalt per day, and I hope that Muscovites are making note of the progress and observing the efforts of the highway workers.

However, malicious, petty, subjective, ostentatious, boorish criticism is something I do not and never will accept.

[Polyatykin] A final question. What is your forecast for the immediate future, for the coming winter?

[Luzhkov] Making forecasts is a thankless task, and you only have to recall the European football championships to know this. In politics, the results are even more unpredictable, so I am not going to say anything on this score. As for providing basic living necessities for the city, I can assure Muscovites that the city will be fully supplied with heating and power, and we have done and are doing everything to ensure this. The food situation is more difficult, but I hope that the direct links we have forged and are forging with the newly formed states will help us to live normally. Moscow has things to sell, things to barter, and money with which to pay. We will survive.

[Polyatykin] Well, we wish you success, and thank you for the interview.

Tatarstan Wants Elections, Adopts Constitution
OW2408193492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1832 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Delegates of the third session of the Tatar Milli-Majlis in Kazan accused the republican leadership of indecisive implementation of the republican sovereignty

and independence. They also stressed the need for immediate presidential and parliamentary elections in Tatarstan, since the present ruling bodies were elected before the proclamation of sovereignty and the popular referendum.

The session adopted in the first reading a draft constitution of Tatarstan providing for the restoration of statehood and self-determination of the Tatar people.

The Milli-Majlis favored the withdrawal of Russian troops from Tatarstan, and strongly opposed holding an autumn draft to the Russian Armed Forces in Tatarstan. In this connection, the Milli-Majlis announced plans to create a Tatar popular volunteer self-defense battalion.

The deputies of the Milli-Majlis sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin saying that talks with Tatarstan can be held only after Russia recognizes its independence. It was noted that without signatures of Milli-Majlis representatives any agreements between Tatarstan and Russia would be invalid.

Japanese Delegation Arrives in St. Petersburg

LD2408135192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1242 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 24 TASS—After signing an agreement with Moscow on cooperation, the delegation from Great Tokyo left for Russia's second largest city, St. Petersburg.

Welcoming the Japanese visitors upon their arrival their, Vice-Mayor Vyacheslav Shcherbakov stressed that the city on the Neva River counted on new business and cultural ties with the Tokyo megapolis. Various aspects of contacts were considered during the meeting in the city hall.

The Japanese delegation visited the Piskarev Memorial Cemetery to pay tribute to civilians and soldiers who fell during World War II and laid flowers at the common graves.

Chemical 'Time Bomb' Near St. Petersburg

PM2408155292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 8

[Yevgeniy Solomenko report: "Chemical 'Time Bomb' Concealed Near St. Petersburg"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Quite close to St. Petersburg, a mighty chemical "time bomb" is stored. Hundreds of thousands of highly toxic waste products containing arsenic, fluorine, mercury, lead, hydrocyanic acid, and phosphorus—that is the "arsenal" of the "Krasnyy Bor" yard, which is only half an hour's journey from the oblast center.

This yard, designed to receive and render harmless industrial chemical waste, was opened in 1970 as an experiment, intended to last only three years. But it is still being used to this day, although its potential has been completely exhausted. Thus not far from St. Petersburg, a city of 5 million, and very close to the city of Kolpino and the settlement of Krasnyy Bor, there is a dangerous source of

chemical pollution—50 hectares packed with the toxic "fruits" of galvanization and organic industries and petroleum refining.

The storage of these unwanted toxic substances violates numerous regulations: Health norms are stretched to breaking point. According to a government resolution, the yard is supposed to serve only enterprises in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast. But instead, for some reason, it also takes waste from other states, in particular Ukraine and the Baltic.

Experts assess the situation as alarming. They estimate that, using traditional technologies, it will take between five and seven years to render harmless the toxic waste already accumulated here. So for a minimum of five years St. Petersburg and the oblast will live beneath a sword of Damocles, in the shape of chemical pollution.

This already complex problem is further exacerbated by the fact that enterprises in St. Petersburg and the oblast have nowhere else to take their waste. So the yard cannot go on operating any longer, but at the same time it cannot be closed. The public and the press, the Green party, professional ecologists, and deputies have been arguing over "Krasnyy Bor" for a long time. But nothing has yet changed radically. At least, not for the better. The Petersburg chekists have had occasion to intervene. They were given the duty of monitoring situations which could develop into incidents, and informing representatives of the authorities about them.

The other day the Russian Security Ministry's St. Petersburg directorate submitted to the St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast leadership its official findings on the "Krasnyy Bor" problem. The document stresses: "In the opinion of specialists, the 'Krasnyy Bor' yard is at present a major source of dangerous pollution of ground and surface water and the atmosphere, and there is therefore no room for delay in resolving the question of building a modern plant for the reprocessing of industrial toxic waste in the region."

The only remaining question is: How can the "fathers" of the city and oblast fail to see for themselves the impending disaster, and if they do see it, why are they doing nothing?

PRC Government Holding Talks in Chita Oblast

LD2408135292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0900 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Talks have been held in Chita between a PRC Government delegation and representatives of the Chita Oblast administration. Our correspondent Vyacheslav Shirokiy has the details:

[Shirokiy] The distinguished Chinese guests were most interested in a question which probably concerns all businessmen without exception, both in our country and abroad, namely the extent to which the potential for developing a free economic zone in the Trans-Baykal region matches up to the guarantees which were given back in June, at the presentation which was held then. After all, it is no secret that one of the components of this program for a free economic zone—the so-called free trade zone—is still only

in an embryonic form. In fact the Chinese side made quite strong representations to the Chita authorities about this, especially as many import-export firms in the PRC have concluded long-term contracts with Trans-Baykal entrepreneurs for the bartering or sale of goods.

Quite a few issues affecting both sides' interests were pinpointed during the talks. First and foremost, there is the problem of road, rail, and air communications. It is no secret that a huge quantity of goods is piling up at Zabaykalsk station, one of the most important border crossing points between Russia and China. Neither border guards nor customs officials are in a position to expedite this volume of goods—the processing capacity of the border crossing is too small. Both the Chinese and Chita authorities see the best solution as being the construction of new crossing points between China and Russia.

The Chinese guests were particularly interested in the idea of setting up a joint venture in Nerchinskii Zavod district of Chita Oblast for the development of the Berezhovka iron ore deposit. The point is that the large metallurgical works built in China with assistance from the former USSR depends for its raw materials on iron ore imported from elsewhere. Chinese specialists feel that iron ore from the Trans-Baykal region is the best way of supplying this industrial monster, especially as the deposit's design capacity for ore extraction is 450 million tonnes per annum.

At the end of their meeting the participants signed a protocol on their talks, in which they agreed to put these and many other questions to their two governments, to whom the delegations have, in the end, left the last word.

Delegation From Kazakhstan Visits Omsk

*LD2408145892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Text] A governmental delegation from Kazakhstan paid a short working visit to Omsk Oblast. The delegation held talks with the local administration on the delivery to Omsk Oblast of Kazakhstan's coal, and of fuel and lubricants from Omsk Oblast to Kazakhstan. Some aspects of the customs regulations which are being introduced on the Russian-Kazakhstan border were also discussed. RIKS News Agency reports.

Karelian Official Outlines Tasks Ahead

*LD2308050592 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Aug 92*

[Video report by correspondent A. Kolobov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Even given the general slump in production in Russia, Karelia's output is considerably lower than the other republics and oblasts in the Federation. In spite of the

critical situation which has now emerged in the forestry complex and machine building, people here are not losing hope in the possibility of emerging from economic crisis.

[Begin recording] [S. Blinnikov, chairman of the Karelian Council of Ministers] Our republic is a forestry region, and therefore, if we are talking about an abrupt breakthrough in the economy, we should give more attention to the forestry complex and should work in terms of Yel'tin's decree of 22 December of last year, which offers great opportunities, although individual Russian Federation ministries and departments are holding things up. [end recording]

Chechen Leader on Visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

*LD2408181592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu-Dhabi, 24 August—The Chechen delegation's visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which ended today was "the first entry by the republic onto the foreign arena and was successful," Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the telephone from Kuwait. "Complete understanding was reached on all the issues discussed during meetings with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Al-Sabah," he continued. "The conversations demonstrated the commitment of the Saudi and Kuwaiti sides to cooperation with the Chechen Republic. The framework for the further development of links in the short term was determined at the meetings. Accords were reached on the exchange of delegations at various levels."

Dzhokhar Dudayev noted that his visit to Saudi Arabia was "predetermined by the fact that the kingdom is the motherland of Islam and plays an important role in the Islamic world. Saudi Arabia's economic success, its social structure and political line were of great interest to the delegation."

Dzhokhar Dudayev received an invitation to make a longer working visit to Saudi Arabia. The Chechen delegation flew home from Kuwait today.

Buryatia, Kaliningrad Get Border Checkpoints

*LD2008190592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0732 GMT 20 Aug 92*

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—At the request of the administrations in the Buryatian Republic and the Kaliningrad region, the Russian Government gave instructions to open two new checkpoints on the state border.

A checkpoint for international sea freight and passenger transport will open in the Svetlyy port, Kaliningrad region. Buryatia plans to open a checkpoint on the Russo-Mongolian border for bilateral passenger and freight motor traffic.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Opens World Forum of Ukrainians

LD2108161792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1127 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Anatoliy Grigoryev and Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Aug—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who spoke today at the ceremonial opening session in Kiev, called the World Forum of Ukrainians a truly uncommon event. For the very first time, Ukrainians from around the whole world, people with various political views, of various religious creeds and social positions, have gathered in their own capital, on soil that is now their own, he said. The world forum became possible, stressed the president, only thanks to the fact that Ukraine acquired independence, the first anniversary of the proclamation of which is now being marked.

The practical process of the birth of one's own state, and the formation of a new nation state in the broadest meaning of that word, continued Leonid Kravchuk, is under way right now in Ukraine. We remain the people that we were born—Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Belorussians, Germans, Hungarians, Poles.... —but with every day that is lived we feel more and more like citizens of a free Ukraine that is concerned in equal measure about its sons and daughters, rather than dividing them on national, social, racial, religious, or other grounds. Ukraine will not depart from this path.

Addresses World Forum

LD2408002192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Report by correspondents Valentyn Vasylo and Petro Postapenko on opening address by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at the World Forum of Ukrainians in Kiev on 21 August; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Kravchuk] "Honored delegates and guests of the forum, my dear friends:

I have the fortunate opportunity of meeting you at such an exalted gathering. First, permit me to sincerely greet you in golden domed Kiev with an exceptional event indeed. The first Ukrainians from all over the world, people of various political views, religious affiliations, and social status, have gathered in their own capital in what is now their own land. It must be stressed that the World Forum of Ukrainians became possible only because Ukraine achieved independence, the first anniversary of which we are already beginning to celebrate. Without the [word indistinct] act of the declaration of state independence, without the referendum of 1 December, today's day could have been completely different. We, all together, achieved and fought for the right and possibility to manage in our native land. We have our native home. We have our independent state, but what will

this home look like tomorrow, in a year, in a century, is today one of the main questions.

"For an answer to this it is necessary to analyze all the factors and the activity of all political forces. Above all, I would like to stress the positive factors, that exist here. What does this include? This is the considerable economic, scientific-technical, and cadre potential of our Ukraine, with its rich natural resources, advantageous geopolitical and geostrategic position, and the unification of the majority of people of all nationalities around state-building. A movement to a new life has begun. We see shots of a new life everywhere, but they grow in a difficult struggle with weeds. Nevertheless, no one is able to put a halt to the new forms of life, although there is a threat."

[Correspondent] In Kravchuk's opinion this threat is economic instability and the deep economic crisis. The intentions of respective forces to return to the old times also constitute a threat. The speaker further said:

[Kravchuk] "We have presently approached a qualitatively new stage of development of the Ukrainian nation. The practical process, the (?theoretical) argumentation, the establishment of our own statehood, in essence, the formation of a new nation state in the wider meaning of this word is under way. The basic people [etnost] that live in Ukraine flow into it—all social groups without exception. This is a full-blooded, diverse, multi-functional process, as a result of which, the birth of a new organism will begin. The declaration of independence on 24 August of last year initiated the realization by all people of Ukraine of the involvement in creating a new state and to the understanding of a community of all in the real Ukrainian land while, at the same time, preserving their ethnic root. We triumphantly declared that Ukraine is not only for Ukrainians; it is for all those who have tied their lives with it and who struggle for Ukraine's freedom and independence. Ukraine guarantees equal rights to all, along with all human rights. So we remain the person we were born: Ukrainians, Russians, Jews, Belarussians, Germans, Hungarians, Poles, but with time, we feel ourselves more to be citizens of Ukraine which is concerned in an equal way about all the sons and daughters, not dividing them by national, social, racial, religious, or any other token. I would like to stress that we will support and develop these objective processes because only such a democratic state has a future, a historic future. Our aim was and remains a free and democratic Ukraine, which is equally good for all nationalities where the ideals of brotherhood, victory, respect for sacred human and citizen's rights will shine for everybody."

[Correspondent] President Leonid Kravchuk in his address at the World Forum of Ukrainians noted that many conditions are necessary for the realization of these high tasks. The will of all political forces, of all people, to go namely along this path is necessary. The unity of everyone around the idea of independence is necessary. The question is exceptionally critical: Either we finally unite or we may perish as an independent state. We will be thrown far behind, stressed the speaker.

[Kravchuk] "It is necessary to understand this simple fact: Without our own statehood there will be no freedom of political life or prosperity and wealth, nor a rich and high culture, or vivid individualities. No, there will be none of this. There will again be [word indistinct] negligence and reckless management, a spiritual abyss, officiousness before foreigners, rejection of the native language and culture. We may once again become an all-Russian stoke-hole, true, this time with a market leaning, or a commonwealth." [passage omitted]

"I would like to recall that more than one quarter of Ukraine's citizens are non-Ukrainians, almost 11 million people are Russians, with whose historical fatherland—our great neighbor—Ukraine is connected by ancient relations. It is certain, one may assume theoretically, the full-blooded and painless functioning [word indistinct] state under such conditions is simply difficult. Therefore, the path of Ukraine is the path of building an autonomous [samostiynoi] democratic, independent, and lawful state and not only a state [words indistinct]. The essence of the matter is that all three ideas: social, national, and political, should be united around a single concept—citizen of Ukraine. Herein lies the source of our internal stability and international accord, protector from the development of events similar to the ethnic war in Yugoslavia."

[Correspondent] [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] "I think that in these spheres you can do considerably more than we can here in accord and in constructive mutual action with Ukraine and with the information centers and political structures. We should see the truth, but it lies in the fact that in the times when Ukraine began the economic and political transformations, when it is emerging onto the world arena, Ukraine is still not well known in the world of business and in government circles. This is true. I felt this during visits. We need a long lasting program, a well thought out program, whose component part should be directed at guaranteeing recognition of our young state as a leading European nation, a nation with a great future, a state without whose participation a single important international issue cannot be resolved. The issue of external and internal security of Ukraine takes up a lot of our time—guaranteeing its territorial integrity and inviolability of borders. We will go forward despite what they say about us beyond the borders of Ukraine and despite the pressure from internal forces. We will go consistently, weighing the forces and the situation. We will build Ukraine. If somebody today has not understood something in our actions, then I am convinced that tomorrow he will understand. We have sufficient forces to suffer this, so that Ukraine may live, so that it may become stronger, so as not to give a pretext to be smothered. Ukraine was, is, and always will be, a peaceful state. Ukraine does not have any claims to territories outside its borders but wants to announce with all the responsibility at this Forum: Ukraine will find everything necessary in order to defend freedom, independence, and sovereignty of the state from any [word indistinct]. From principle considerations we see Ukraine as being strong with [word indistinct] and friendliness with regard to other members of the world community. We

dream about a Ukraine powerful with economic prosperity. We hope that the greatness of Ukraine is also in spiritual richness." [passage omitted]

Further on Address

OW2208202292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1515 GMT 22 Aug 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk spoke Thursday [20 August] at the opening of the World Forum of Ukrainians in Kiev. (The meeting will continue until August 24 - Independence Day).

Analyzing the situation in the country a year after Parliament declared independence the head of the Ukrainian government listed the great industrial, scientific, and cultural potential of the republic among positive factors. The president also said "we are already seeing progress in the economy". Kravchuk pointed out that "the situation remains complicated" which he said is caused by "the consequences of a totalitarian system and the attempt by certain forces to send society back to those times, and uncoordination among democrats".

The president continued saying: "We are now undergoing the complicated process of reviving and building the Ukrainian state". "We have declared that Ukraine is not a nation of Ukrainians alone but guarantees equal rights to all ethnic groups who are united as Ukrainian citizens. We will develop this principle as it helps us avoid bloody confrontations which, as we have seen, are breaking out in various republics of the former Soviet Union", Kravchuk said.

Kravchuk especially stressed that "Each individual must understand that without our own statehood we can attain nothing but a return to slavery and repressive life. We must counter instability by joining forces to build our own government".

Kravchuk said that Ukraine and other areas "are making a great effort" in this area "however there is still considerable separatism and unconstructivism". The president criticized "Rukh" which "was supposed to unite all democratic forces in the nation, but instead the organization itself has split". Kravchuk said Rukh co-chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil is largely responsible for this. (Sharp reaction resounded through the auditorium following Kravchuk's remark, proof of Chornovil's popularity). Our correspondent in Kiev said that the president, not the least bothered by the negative reaction, finished his thought saying that "Chornovil is standing in the way of democratic development".

"INTERFAX NOTE" Chornovil and the branch of Rukh headed by him declared "constructive opposition" to the course of the current government and criticized Crimean agreements between Kravchuk and Yeltsin on the Black Sea fleet. They considered the decision passed in Mukhalatka August 3rd inconsistent with policies to strengthen Ukraine's independence. Chornovil's supporters also gave

an unflattering assessment of the Ukraine president's behaviour during his meeting with Yeltsin, reproaching Kravchuk for appearing in front of television cameras in a manner inappropriate for a leader of a sovereign state.

Kravchuk said that as president he will "use all efforts" to consolidate society to surmount the economic crisis and attain political stability. The head of the government said the current Parliament "has not exhausted its possibilities" however, "a new parliament must be elected on a democratic basis". Kravchuk said the government must be criticized but must also be given the opportunity to work in the present difficult conditions". The president said the best answer is to create a coalition government.

Kravchuk said that Ukraine will find the means to defend its independence even after becoming a non-nuclear state.

RUKH Reacts to Address

OW2208212192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1546 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kharkov-Novosti news agency reports that, at a press briefing, Ivan Drach, a cochairman of the Ukrainian opposition movement Rukh, condemned Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk for making public his attitude to Vyacheslav Chornovil in his speech at the World Forum of Ukrainians.

Chornovil himself, whom Kravchuk accused of causing a split among democratic forces, said in an interview with Radio Liberty that Kravchuk had sounded not as a president but as a second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Yesterday, on the opening day of the forum, the Independence newspaper carried an article by Chornovil in which he said Ukraine had not yet achieved real independence.

World Congress Elects Officials

LD2308223192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1341 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] As we have already reported, a congress of Ukrainians began today in Kiev. This is indeed an enormous event, a festival of unity. Vladimir Sinelnikov, who is on the line right now, reports on this from Kiev:

[Sinelnikov] Nikolay Zhulinskiy, chairman of the organizing committee, member of the State Duma, opening the forum, defined its main aim as a sincere talk about the needs of the state and the people.

The first to be elected to the presidium were President Leonid Kravchuk and Ivan Plyushch, Supreme Soviet chairman. Apart from them, places on the stage were taken by Yuriy Semko, chairman of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians; Yaroslava Stetsko, leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists; and representatives of national communities and organizations from various states, including from former Soviet republics.

Every detail in the organization of the work testifies to a striving—forgetting old feuds and disagreements—to unite Ukrainians scattered throughout the world around the idea of national rebirth. The motto, taken from the words of the famous Taras Shevchenko, is understandable even without a translation—"Unite brothers mine, I entreat you, beseech you."

President Leonid Kravchuk is acting as aspirant to the role of leader of a united people; at least this was the frank statement he made when expressing greetings at the opening of the forum. Leonid Kravchuk briefly dwelt on certain small shortcomings in the first year of independence—for example, such as the economic crisis, and moved verbosely to the subject of the unity of the democratic movement. After long and transparent passages addressed at certain figures who are ambitiously placing their own interests higher than national interests, and are destroying the united front of democracy, Leonid Kravchuk openly named the cochairman of Rukh, Vyacheslav Chornovil, noting that his activity today is doing more harm than good.

This is not the first public reproach aimed at the leader of the national-democratic opposition. Since the president is very sensitive in reaction to public discussion of his behavior, we will leave it for Leonid Kravchuk himself to decide how appropriate the personal attack was at a congress whose main idea was an appeal for consolidation and unification.

However, the reports delivered by Ivan Dzyuba, well-known commentator and former political prisoner, and Yuriy Semko, whom we have already mentioned, did not pick up the president's ideas. Ivan Dzyuba made fairly sharp but well-argued criticism of the current situation in the country in all spheres—in the economy, politics and culture. The natural difficulties in transition from totalitarianism to democracy in Ukraine were worsened, he said, by the crude mistakes of the leadership.

Yuriy Semko, representing the 4 million members of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, spoke along much the same lines in his report "The Western Diaspora: (?Expectations) and Prospects." He noted the negative role of opposition from former partocrats who control the state structures today. Taking advantage of their official position, they often interpret privatization as personal enrichment, and deliberately sabotage market reforms. The diaspora is willing to help and will do so, but wants to be confident that their money really is going to be used for the good of Ukraine.

The forum is continuing its work, but the failure of Leonid Kravchuk to become the standard bearer of the national movement is already evident.

World Congress Submits Proposals

LD2408112492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in English 2100 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] The leadership of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians places its cooperation in the building of independent Ukraine independent from the actions of the Ukrainian

leadership. [sentence as heard] It demands the introduction of broad political and economic reforms. Among them first and foremost are such measures as elections on a multi-party basis, the introduction of a national monetary unit, and speeding up privatization. This also concerns the establishment of its own economic space border and control over it and also the establishment of a truly free market. These and other proposals have been included in a memorandum of the congress leadership forwarded to the President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk.

World Congress Ends

LD2408082392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0739 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Yevgeniy Pariiskiy and Ivan Sayko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 24 TASS—The three-day World Forum of Ukrainians ended here on Sunday [23 August]. It became possible only due to the fact that Ukraine had gained independence, the first anniversary of which is marked these days, said Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk. He also said: "Coordinated and dynamic actions by state, public and political institutions of Ukraine with diaspora will help our state to acquire a proper image, to show it as the great strength of progress and stability in Europe and the world. This will lead to strengthening of Ukrainian authority, to major economic achievements."

Participants in the forum—envoys of Ukrainians from 26 countries of the world, the CIS countries, representatives of the Republic of Crimea, all regions of Ukraine, people of various political creeds, faiths, and social status—were unanimous that the Ukrainian independent state should be built jointly, by uniting parties and movements. To this end, it is highly important to use the world potential of the nation, to elaborate new orientation points, from the positions of an independent Ukraine, for the activity of all organisations and societies, new means and forms of cultural and educational work, of forming public and political structures.

Urgent problems and ways to build a law-based independent Ukrainian state, to revive the spiritual force, the intellectual and economic potential of its people were discussed at sections and roundtables held in the framework of the forum.

At the final meeting the participants passed an address to all Ukrainians of the world, to peoples of the world on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986 and other documents. A 42-strong Ukrainian World Coordination Council was set up to coordinate actions by Ukrainian peace organisations. It comprises 14 representatives each from various organisations of Ukraine, the western and eastern (former Union republics) diasporas.

Delegates and guests of the forum will take part in today's celebrations marking the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Conference Issues Noted

LD2508050292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Report by correspondent Valentyn Vasylo on closing day of World Forum of Ukrainians in Kiev on 23 August]

[Text] The first congress of Ukrainians on such a scale did its work for three days. The participants, who came to the capital of Ukraine from all of its oblasts and also from foreign countries both near and far, discussed many global issues. It is understandable that the speakers also touched upon their own problems but attention was mainly focused on an analysis of the situation in Ukraine and on cooperation with the diaspora.

At meetings in full session a wide circle of subjects was examined. I will mention only a few of them. These are current issues of Ukrainian studies, market economy, enterprise and business, topical issues of national security, the revival and development of national culture, and interconfessional relations. Socio-economic, legal, ecological, and scientific issues were also examined. The future of Ukraine depends to a great extent on the resolution of these issues.

National Affairs

Government in Exile Surrenders Powers

LD2408215792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1935 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 24 Aug (TASS)—The government of the Ukrainian People's Republic in exile has existed for over 70 years, preserving all the regalia of statehood. In a ceremony in the Mariinskiy Palace of the Ukrainian Capital on Monday [24 August] the regalia were transferred to the present leadership of the Ukrainian state. The government of the Ukrainian People's Republic in exile has thus surrendered its powers. [INTERFAX in English at 1614 GMT on 24 August in a similar report adds: "The Ukrainian People's Republic was proclaimed on November 7 1917 and lasted until April 1918. The UPR government ceased its activities in Ukraine when Kiev was taken by German troops and has been in exile ever since."]

The ceremony was opened by speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Plyushch and president of the Ukrainian People's Republic in exile Mykola Plavyuk. They noted that this act attests to the continuity of Ukrainian statehood. Chairman of the government in exile, Ivan Samiilenko, handed over to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk the presidential seal and an album with photographs of leaders of the Ukrainian People's Republic. The presidential blue-and-yellow flag was also presented to the head of state.

Patriarch Mstislav of Kiev and all Ukraine of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church presented to the parliament the sign of Hetman Ivan Mazepa which was then handed over to Leonid Kravchuk.

Speaking at the ceremony, Kravchuk noted that it is of huge importance. It attests to the revival of Ukrainian statehood which originated in distant past. "This imparts to us strength and confidence on the road of the construction of independent Ukraine," he said. The president proposed that a church be laid down to commemorate the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence. It will be built at the expense of the state and also on donations from believers.

Defense Minister Issues Order on Anniversary

LD2308043992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] In connection with the celebration of the first anniversary of declaring the state independence of Ukraine on 24 August, Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov issued an order. It reads that Ukraine came to sovereignty and independence, not on the path of armed struggle and bloodshed, but on the path of peaceful development, which is based on international legal acts.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine are also built on adhering to principles of international cooperation and legal norms. The defense minister expressed confidence that warriors of the Armed Forces would do everything to enable the Ukrainian state to occupy the place in the world community that it deserves and to become one of the factors for stabilization in Europe.

Sub-Carpathia Officers Set Up Assembly on Rights

LD2208053292 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian
1229 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Ninel Kysilevska]

[Text] Lvov, 20 Aug—At the constituent meeting, envoys from all military sub-units of the sub-Carpathian military district expressed deep anxiety over the complex situation in the army environment. Not only does it negatively affect new officers, but it also undermines the authority, fighting efficiency, and trust of the people in their armed forces.

Participants in the meeting linked hope for the eradication of negative phenomena with creating the officer's assembly—a public organization which will become a guarantor of their rights, which will defend their honor and dignity, and which will play a decisive role in developing the national army and educating and training its personnel.

A number of speakers were united in the conclusion that the assembly should become a high body of appeal which, if necessary, can settle issues under dispute in a just way and assert the rights of its members.

However, doubts could be heard in some speeches: Is such a peculiar duplicate of the public prosecutor's office necessary in a state governed by law, where social and legal guarantees should be defended by the law? Will this organization not encroach on the principle of undivided authority, which is sacred for the army, if, for instance, it sets out settling issues for cadres and revises decisions by a degree commission?

Representatives of the Officer's Union of Ukraine, which opposes the assembly, expressed fear with regard to the fact that the renewed structure of the former imperial army will become nothing but the means of putting pressure on officers by the command.

We will think alike and cooperate in case the assembly thinks only in categories of the Ukrainian state, and will confirm in practice, their readiness to develop a national armed forces, said Hryhoriy Omelchenko, the chairman of the Officer's Union of Ukraine.

In spite of differences and, sometimes, diametrical opposition of opinions, the officer's assembly has already started on activities which will have to confirm its expedience.

Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, the defense minister of Ukraine; Vilen Martirosyan, the chairman of the Committee for Issues of Social Protection of Servicemen, under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine; and Lyudmyla Tryhmanova, who chairs the All-Ukrainian Committee of Soldier's Mothers, took part in the work of the constituent meeting and made speeches.

Scientist Notes Status of Chernobyl Sarcophagus

AU2108121892 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1020 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] The comprehensive field work for studying the situation at the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant has been completed. The fourth block of the plant has been bricked up, and it no longer presents a nuclear hazard. The sensors mounted within the cracks in the sarcophagus show that the radiation does not exceed the norm, it was stated in the press by Georgiy Sharovarov, director of the Belarusian Institute for Radiological Problems. However, he pointed out that when water gets into places with a high concentration of (?fuel), the radiation may become dangerous. In his opinion, it is necessary to do everything possible in order to dismantle the sarcophagus and bury everything in accordance with international standards.

Parallel Circulation of Rubles, Coupons Denied

OW2108142992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1352 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Board of the National Bank of Ukraine has denied Izvestiya's reports (August 11, 1992) about this bank's decision to put the ruble and the coupon into parallel circulation, the news agency Kharkov Novosti announced on Friday [21 August].

The bank's leaders believe that the parallel circulation of the ruble and the coupon will help stabilize the latter. They stated, however, that such a decision may be taken only by the president or the Cabinet.

The National Bank of Ukraine has drafted a number of organizational and legal measures to stabilize the coupon in relation to the ruble and to do away with the black-market speculation.

State Property Fund Chairman on Privatization
OW2408174092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1614 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian State Property Fund Chairman Vladimir Pryadko feels that privatisation should be developed in the republic by renting out state heavy equipment with the right to buy the property. In an interview with the newspaper *Delovaya Ukraina* (Business Ukraine), he said that in order to assure the process is carried out under competitive conditions "it won't simply be that whoever gives more takes it, but whoever proposes the best technical-organizational plan for the equipment's use".

Pryadko believes the next step for the rental plan would be an auction. He said the Fund intends to begin publishing bulletins on privatisation in August.

Social-National Party's Leaflets Appear in Lvov
LD2208035492 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian
1229 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report from the newspaper *ZA VILNU UKRAYINU*, For A Free Ukraine, 20 August]

[Text] Leaflets with an appeal by the Social-National Party of Ukraine have appeared in Lvov. This appeal has shocked some, because it addresses Ukrainians only. It has shocked others because of its symbol, a combination of a trident [national symbol of Ukraine] and a swastika. Yurko Krivoruchko, the spokesman on matters of ideology and development of the Ukrainian nation, said the following:

The interests of the Ukrainian nation are a priority for the party. This means that, in its activity and outlook, the party must examine all problems from the point of view of whether or not they are expedient with regard to national interests. The second fundamental principle of the party is the concept of the world as a struggle. Only intellectual and physical force can bring victory to the party's cause.

The basic criterion of selection for the Social-National Party of Ukraine is one's view on the evaluation of life and religiousness. However, membership in the party is on an individual basis.

The party has branches in 13 oblasts in Ukraine. It envisages applying for registration at the Justice Ministry in order to acquire the status of a legal entity.

Belarus

Israel's Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Cooperation Discussed

TA2308191192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Belarus today and laid a wreath at the memorial for victims of the Holocaust. The leaders of Belarus told the foreign minister that they would like to expand cooperation in the fields of agriculture, tourism, education, and culture. Mikha'el Karpin reports from Minsk:

[Begin Karpin recording] The small chartered Aeroflot plane landed in Minsk late last night. Mr. Peres was greeted at Minsk's new airport by Petr Kravchanko, Belarus' young foreign minister, who congratulated the first Israeli foreign minister to ever visit the independent Belarus. [passage omitted]

The political talks were held this morning. Belarus would like to expand cooperation in agriculture, tourism, education, and culture. Foreign Minister Kravchanko told the Israeli delegation.

First Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikov later said: I am very pleased with the talks held this morning with the Israeli foreign minister. The talks were productive and we reached agreements, both on matters of principle and on special projects. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Agriculture Team To Visit

TA2408142292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
24 Aug 92 p A2

[Excerpt] Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanko yesterday promised his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres, who was on a 24-hour visit to Minsk, that "anti-Semitism would have no future in my country."

In a meeting between the two foreign ministers, the Belarusian minister expressed his hope for the quick signing of a whole series of agreements on abolishing double taxation, industrial and agricultural cooperation, the establishment of a direct air link between Minsk and Tel Aviv, culture and tourism agreements, and academic links.

He expressed his amazement at the fact that the members of the kibbutzim, which constitute a mere four percent of the Israeli population, provide 60 percent of its agricultural produce. Following a request by the Belarusian minister, Peres agreed to ask the kibbutz movement to train teams of experts from Belarus in Israel. Peres also promised that an Israeli team would arrive in Belarus to examine the idea.

It was also agreed to establish contacts between the two countries' potassium industries and to maintain a joint dialogue between the two countries' UN delegations, in light of Belarus' desire to join the Security Council as a nonpermanent member. [passage omitted]

Further on Reportage on Draft Constitution

LD2408211892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] In Belarus the latest version of the draft of the new constitution of the republic has been published, taking into account thousands of remarks and proposals from citizens, according to the RIKa agency. In accordance with the constitution, the head of state will be the president. He is elected by the whole people for a term of five years. The draft fundamental law of Belarus also envisages election of a permanently operating Sejm of 160 deputies. Legislative power in the republic will operate independently. Legislative scrutiny is invested in the Constitutional Court.

Defense Ministry Charges 'Mercenary' Officers

LD2408145792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Aug 92+

[Text] As has already been reported, a group of officers and generals has been detected in Belarus who have been using their official positions for mercenary purposes. An RIA correspondent has been informed by the Information Department of the Belarus Defense Ministry that criminal charges have been brought against 75 people; 11 generals and senior officers have been recommended for dismissal into the reserves, including Lieutenant General Rumyantsev, commander of the 5th Guards Tank Army. By decision of the collegium of the Belarus Defense Ministry, the staff of this army is being disbanded. An army corps will subsequently be created on the basis of it. In addition, the collegium made a decision to carry out a fundamental inspection of the troops in August and September. By 15 September, reports will be written on all officials who have financial responsibilities in the republican armed forces. Henceforth, servicemen in Belarus are banned from any involvement in commercial organizations.

Military Disciplinary Offenses Growing

LD2408134192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Bullying of subordinates has not declined, even though only natives of Belarus serve in the Belarusian army rather than representatives of dozens of peoples and ethnic groups from the former USSR. On the contrary, the level of desertions, theft, and other offenses is growing among the troops.

This conclusion has been reached by the republic's military legal experts who have analyzed the state of crime in the former Belarusian Military District and the newly formed armed forces of Belarus. The legal experts do not regard bullying by seniors as an army phenomenon - the whole of society lives according to similar laws. The legal experts regard the hasty destruction of the system for fostering patriotism in young people as one of the reasons for the sharp increase in offenses in the newly formed national armed forces.

Moldova**Commander Says Peace 'Due to Russian Efforts'***LD2408205192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1958 GMT 24 Aug 92***[By ITAR-TASS]**

[Text] Tiraspol August 24 TASS—Major-General Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in Moldova, highly assessed the activity of the Russian peace-keeping contingent in the Dniester region, where peace was established due to Russia's efforts, the general said at a news conference in Tiraspol on Monday [24 August].

Lebed believes peace-keeping and diplomatic efforts of the Dniester and Moldovan leaders are currently needed for the further settlement of the conflict.

Lebed touched upon unsubstantiated attacks made by the press which, as he said, is seeking to deliberately discredit him as a commander and lessen the role of the peace-keeping force.

The general confirmed that he would continue to defend the Dniester region and its people in the future, if necessary, as long as his strength and possibilities permit him to do so.

He refuted allegations on the establishment of the dictatorship of the 14th Army in the Dniester region and his own desire to take the presidential post of the Dniester region.

"Our professional duty is to attend to military duties rather than engage in politics," Lebed pointed out.

Military Officials View 14th Army Withdrawal*LD2308160992 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Interview with Nikolay Zhurbenko, cochairman of the joint commission monitoring compliance with the agreement on the settlement of the conflict in eastern Moldova, and Moldovan National Army Minister Pavel Kryange by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Zhurbenko] In the first place, the most important results, to start with, are the cease-fire and establishment of peace. The disengagement of the opposing armed groups has been accomplished, arms have been surrendered by the parties concerned, and the groups have, by and large, been disbanded. That is, the prerequisites have been established for conducting a healthy political dialogue aimed at regulating the state organization of the Republic of Moldova.

[Correspondent] Can we state today that the firing has ceased?

[Zhurbenko] We do state, may I say, that the firing has ceased. Occasional exchanges of fire do not come from organized armed groups, they are not preplanned. There will always be quite a few maniacs around, even when there are no hostilities. As you know, they have appeared here, back

home in Moscow, and in other places. Here, Even more so—people let go, some are unwilling to surrender arms, sometimes it is revenge—trying to get the upper hand over one's enemy, who fought on the other side. In a word, this is not organized armed opposition. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] So, you should [word indistinct] inform the Russian Government and then continue your actions?

[Zhurbenko] There is a possibility that the government will move in some other directions, possibly more radical or more moderate. However, appropriate government decisions will be made that we will go by.

[Correspondent] So how do you think you will promote further developments?

[Zhurbenko] In order to establish genuine peace, get the political dialogue going faster, using words, not guns. This is what is needed to ensure peace in the Moldovan land, because saber-rattling has never brought peace.

[Correspondent] How long will the Russian peacekeeping forces stay here?

[Zhurbenko] Do you understand what the word situation means? I hope you do. When conditions are appropriate for the withdrawal of Russian troops they will be ready to leave immediately. However, so far, such conditions have not been created, and it is probably too early to talk about withdrawal of Russian troops. It is no bother for us: we can get up and go. However, what are we going to leave [word indistinct]? We will have left no guarantees that there will not be another armed conflict again, that the contradictions will not re-emerge.

[Correspondent] There are rumors of a new confrontation. What do you think?

[Zhurbenko] I must say that you are asking really interesting questions. I am not an intelligence officer. Neither am I a politician. There is political confrontation. As for the military side, we have now resolved all the issues in order to eliminate military conflict. [passage omitted]

[Kryange] It is known that negotiations are being held between the Russian Government and our government—on the withdrawal of the 14th Army and other military units, for example, Paratroop Regiment 300. It is too early to talk about successes, but the mere fact that these negotiations have started is promising. Next week they will be continued and I am sure they will be successful.

[Correspondent] What is our Defense Ministry proposing?

[Kryange] The Defense Ministry suggests that since our republic made a certain contribution to the creation of the capacity of the former Soviet Army, that it can claim a share of the property of the former Armed Forces. Therefore, we demand, or rather—suggest, that the equipment of that regiment and a part of [word indistinct] goes to us. This will be fair and will correspond to our demands.

[Correspondent] What are the chances today of a withdrawal by the 14th Army from the territory of the Republic of Moldova?

[Kryange] We think that, with a little luck, if the 14th Army is withdrawn by the middle of next year, this would be right and acceptable. The timing of the 14th Army's withdrawal and that of other military units from our republic will be defined by our government and the Russian Government.

Peacekeeping Forces Appeal For Alcohol Ban

LD2308144492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0500 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Text] On 22 August, the unified control commission of the peacekeeping forces in the Dniester region appealed to the people to stop supplying alcohol to servicemen. It was proposed to local authorities to prohibit selling wine and spirits to the military. The appeal says that cases of servicemen drinking alcohol while fulfilling their duties have

become more frequent. The commission feels that this leads to a sharp decline in discipline and can lead to tragic consequences.

Railway Movements To Resume in Bendery

LD2408142292 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Aug 92

[“Vesti” newscast video report by Mikhail Ponomarev]

[Text] DR-PRESS reports from the Dniester region that the situation remains relatively peaceful. For this reason a meeting of the Joint Control Commission has decided to resume railway movements through the town of Bendery. However, several servicemen have been wounded in Dubossarskiy Rayon in the last few days as a result of exchanges of fire, which were provoked. In view of this, the peacekeeping forces deployed in Dubossarskiy Rayon have been placed on a state of heightened combat readiness.

Kazakhstan**Further Reportage on New Immigration Law***LD2408142992 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian
0941 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Text] Virtually all of Kazakhstan's newspapers have published the immigration law. According to this legislative act, the people of Kazakhstan will now have the right to change their place of residence inside the republic, to resettle in any other country, and to return. Persons of indigenous nationality living abroad will be able to return to their historic homeland without any obstacles.

According to a government statement, the president of the republic is to establish an immigration quota for each calendar year which determines the exact number and types of immigrants with an indication of the countries from which they come, the material and financial resources necessary for receiving them and providing for them, and also the regions where they will be resettled and the farms and enterprises where they will be given jobs.

The quota is also to provide for differentiated benefits and a system of allowances for refugees and repatriated people who were forced to leave the republic in the period of the repressions, forced collectivization, as a result of inhumane political actions, or mass famine who are now returning home and also for their descendants.

With the aim of providing help and support for the refugees and resettlers, a state immigration fund is being set up, which is formed out of funds allocated from the republican and local budgets, funds of expatriate associations and cultural centers and other sources of finance.

The law comes into effect from 1 December 1992.

Harvest Expected To Exceed 1991 Production Total*PM2408155792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Aug 92 p 1*

[PRAVDA correspondent Vladimir Ryzhkov report under the general heading: "Meanwhile...."]

[Text] Kazakhstan—The harvest campaign will begin in a day or two in Kazakhstan's virgin lands. Specialists estimate that the republic's gross grain production could total more than 23 million tonnes, 75 percent more than last year. For the time being, heated disputes are under way over purchase prices. Currently, the government is only offering 8,000-10,000 rubles per tonne of grain, while it actually costs the peasant 14,000 rubles to produce.

Joint Economic Council Formed With Japan*LD2408151492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1405 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 24 TASS—Kazakhstan and Japan have decided to form a joint economic development council.

A delegation from Japan led by Akio Asaki, the former Japanese prime minister Toshiki Kaifu's first secretary, arrived in Kazakhstan today to meet local members of the organizing committee of a society for mutually beneficial economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Japan for detailed discussions of the aims and directions of activity of the organisations they are planning to create.

Japan will soon open a trade mission in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, to study programmes and projects worked out in this republic and analyze their plausibility.

If and when Japanese companies show interests in these programmes and projects, joint ventures will be set up and a joint bank will be established.

The Japanese delegation was received by Vice-President Yerik Asanbayev, who told Japanese visitors in a conversation that Kazakhstan viewed as promising and mutually beneficial the establishment of joint chemical production enterprises on the basis of local oil and gas fields.

The Japanese delegation is expected to stay in Alma-Ata for three days, during which they hope to finalize the council's rules and programme of work.

Official on Combatting Drug Problem*PM2408150692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
22 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 8*

[Oleg Stefashin report: "Kazakhstan Receives Currency To Combat Drugs Business"]

[Text] Karaganda—In the near future, Kazakhstan could become a major international market for the sale and consumption of drugs. This was stated in the press by V. Artemenko, leader of a special subdivision of the republic MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] for combating drug abuse and the drugs business.

It is clear from Artemenko's report that the international drug mafia has already begun to show a heightened interest in Kazakhstan. The target of its special attention is undoubtedly the Chuyskaya Valley, known in certain circles as the "second golden triangle." A significant part of its vast territory is taken up with sowings of wild hemp, which, far from diminishing, are actually increasing rapidly from year to year. It is calculated, for instance, that in the last 25 years, these sowings have increased more than 30-fold.

Naturally it is becoming increasingly difficult for the militia, with its limited forces, to control the export routes of the narcotic weed, and the drug dealers skillfully take advantage of this. It is believed that in the near future, a considerable quantity will be shipped out across the border, while whole torrents of other, cheaper and stronger drugs will pour across the border into Kazakhstan, where a demand for them has increased drastically among lovers of "strong sensations."

At the moment, V. Artemenko admitted, the republic is not ready to stop this dangerous process. The sole possibility of stopping the oncoming threat is to destroy all plantations of the wild plants. However, this task is impossible in practice, because chemical methods of destruction could exacerbate the ecological situation in Kazakhstan, and physical methods are very little use—hemp seeds can lie in the ground even for a considerable period, and still germinate, and can spread by the wind over a huge area.

Nonetheless the republic does not intend to accept the situation that has arisen. It is actively seeking a way out of the impasse. It is most likely that its efforts will be supported by other CIS states, which also have an interest in effectively combating drug abuse.

In any case, V. Artemenko noted, the Kazakh MVD already has an accord with the Russian MVD on the joint implementation of the large-scale "Chuyskaya Valley" program. The two sides are allocating 70 million rubles for its implementation, which covers the most diverse avenues of action.

This program also has the support of the international federation for combating drug abuse and drug trafficking, which has decided to grant \$3 million to the special services of Kazakhstan and Russia. A considerable proportion of these funds will be used to develop medical research and create modern systems for the treatment of drug abusers, first and foremost those in whom the disease has not yet become chronic.

Kyrgyzstan

Government Bans Grain Exports

LD2308133992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0700 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Summary] The export of grain from Kyrgyzstan has been banned by the government, NEGA reports, with the exception of seeds that are being supplied to CIS countries in accordance with intergovernmental agreements. The sale of grain to commodity exchanges and other commercial organizations has been forbidden until the fulfillment of the state order. In the event of a breach of the ban, the grain will be confiscated. In order to stimulate the sale of surplus grain to the state, it has been established that 20 percent above the purchase price will be paid for it.

U.S. Accord on 'Disinterested Aid' Grant Signed

OW2408114892 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1007 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USA will grant 10 million dollars worth disinterested aid to Kyrgyzstan as part of the "Food for Progress" program. The appropriate accord was signed by Kyrgyzstan's Secretary of State Ednan Karabayev and the US Charge d'Affaires in the Republic Robert Wiseberg.

As an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent has been told at the Kyrgyz president's office, the grant will be spent to purchase 30 thousand tonnes of grain and ship them to the republic.

The aid was provided on a guarantee from the republican government to continue agricultural reforms: turn collective and state-run farms into private businesses, reduce the state contract in agriculture, privatize more farm processing and food production facilities, and encourage free food stuffs trade.

Report: U.S. Base Plans May Be 'Provocation'

PM2408150192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 22 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[Valeriy Kuklin report: "Sensation: You Cannot Keep Quiet About Missiles"]

[Text] Bishkek—There was recently a rumor about a NATO military base being built on the territory of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. INTERFAX confirmed this report by saying that their correspondent met with an official from the Kyrgyz president's apparatus who wanted to remain anonymous. This man said that a mutual assistance treaty had been concluded in A. Akayev's absence and a "concept for Kyrgyz-U.S. defense cooperation formulated."

The anonymous staffer passed the following comment on this action, taken by the republic's leadership contrary to the wishes of the other CIS countries: Kyrgyzstan will, first, be reliably defended against possible aggression and, second, the presence of a U.S. base "would provide work for tens of thousands of people and annual hard-currency revenue."

Officials have already denied this report, but there is no smoke without fire, so to speak. The reference to formulating a system to defend Kyrgyzstan against possible aggression allows us to consider this either as provocation organized by the current enemies of A. Akayev's policy, or to think that people in the top echelons of power in the republic are afraid of possible aggression by CIS neighbors and China. There is also a third option—we are dealing with a provocative report aimed at checking out the reaction of the CIS public and governments to such a decision being adopted.

The appearance of a U.S. military base on Kyrgyz territory might in turn prove dangerous both for the PRC, which is continuing to develop socialism, as well as for Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, and especially for Russia. Is this not why the chief of the CIS Forces' General Staff flew into Alma-Ata in the wake of this announcement? Kyrgyz press, radio, and television are keeping steadfastly mum on this subject. The public is irritated and staggered: Why can such decisions be adopted behind the scenes without first being coordinated with the Supreme Soviet? Why were deputies elected in the first place?

Tajikistan

Leaders Denounce Murder of Procurator General

*LD2408195292 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network
in Tajik 1700 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Statement issued by the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan on assassination of procurator general]

[Text] Dear compatriots, our society is passing through a tragic course of its history. The confrontation of the political forces, which has resulted in [words indistinct] and armed clashes, is causing anxiety and worry among every member of society [words indistinct] measures designed for restoring peace and tranquillity in society are confronted by those who want the situation to become even more tense.

This morning, a number of unknown persons carried out a cowardly armed attack against Nurullo Khuvaydullayev, a people's deputy and procurator general of the Republic of Tajikistan. They killed Nurullo Khuvaydullayev and [words indistinct] his driver in a barbaric manner. This cowardly action was pre-planned and well-prepared (?by the attackers). The criminals knew whom they wanted and what they were after.

We see something else behind this bloody tragedy, which is completely different from an ordinary killing. The murderers not only used firearms against a person, which is a crime in itself, but also targeted the laws of the society which Nurullo Khuvaydullayev was guarding strictly and unswervingly. They, in fact, aimed against the future of our sovereign state which we see as democratic and law-based. A group of criminals have, in fact, challenged all of us, trying to instill fear and despair and impose anarchy and arbitrariness in the society with violence and brutality.

However, this bloody fantasy is in vain, and no one should think otherwise. The state has enough strength and means to combat the criminal world, to enforce law and order and to defend the honor and dignity of its citizens.

In these extremely grave days for the republic, we express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Nurullo Khuvaydullayev and to all those who have died innocently. The murderers, no doubt, will be found. They cannot escape responsibility and harsh punishment by the law. The authoritative commission which has been set up will expose the [word indistinct] of this bloody assassination. It will expose those who were the instigators and perpetrators, and will make their aims known to us.

[signed] Rahmon Nabiyeu, president of the Republic of Tajikistan

Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan

Akbar Mirzoyev, prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan

Alliance Condemns Murder

*LD2408195792 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network
in Tajik 1700 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Statement issued by the Alliance of the Popular Forces of Tajikistan on assassination of procurator general]

[Text] The Alliance of the Popular Forces of Tajikistan declares that [word indistinct] Nurullo Khuvaydullayev, procurator general of Tajikistan, was today martyred by unknown persons. The murder of Nurullo Khuvaydullayev is without doubt an inhuman act. [passage indistinct]

Regarding Khuvaydullayev, the Alliance of the Popular Forces of Tajikistan states with absolute responsibility that his murder was unexpected to us and we resolutely condemn such an inhuman act. We strictly demand that all [words indistinct] bodies carry out a proper investigation and find the murderers of the procurator general to prevent his murder leading to a new conflict.

For our part, we will do everything to assist in exposing the perpetrators of this tragedy. At the same time, the Alliance of the Popular Forces mourns the untimely death of Nurullo Khuvaydullayev, expresses sympathy to his relatives and friends, and prays that God give them patience.

Fighting Continues in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast

*LD2408123792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT
24 Aug 92*

["Novosti" newscast video report by correspondent M. Nikulin from Kurgan]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The situation in the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast has deteriorated sharply. Here in Kurgan, in the center of the town of Kurgan-Tyube, the table was supposed to be laid for peace. The people of Kurgan-Tyube, representing all the regions of Tajikistan, were supposed to sit around the table, break the bread of peace, and talk about their problems. Unfortunately, however, this did not happen.

Gunfire can again be heard in the oblast. Civilians have been killed and injured. The situation is especially difficult at the Kuibyshev state farm in Bakhdashkiy Rayon. Over 20 people have been killed here. Special police units, using CIS armored vehicles, are with varying degrees of success trying to keep things under control in the armed conflict zone. Each of the warring sides believes that it came under attack first. [passage omitted]

You can see for yourselves: houses burned and looted, livestock killed, people deprived of the most basic living conditions. While the republic's leadership, in the calm of their offices, seek ways out of this sad situation, the country is seemingly slipping into terrorism.

22 Civilians Killed

OW2408134092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1300 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Clashes between opposing armed groups of various political orientation, which broke out August 16 in the Kurgan-Tyube region of Tajikistan, continue in the republic. The local Department of Internal Affairs said that the number of civilians killed in the clashes in the Vakhshskiy and Bakhtarskiy regions rose to 22 this Sunday [23 August]. Information on victims among the aggressors was not available.

The Tajik Internal Ministry reports that a decree issued by President Rakhman Nabyev calling for the groups to voluntarily lay down their arms is not being fulfilled in the Kurgan-Tyube region. However, OMON [special purpose militia detachment] have confiscated some weapons during inspections.

Lack of Fuel Forces Dushanbe Airport Closure

OW2408141592 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1300 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Dushanbe airport was forced to shut down due to a lack of fuel. Flights within the republic and to other CIS nations may be grounded until September 1st.

Airport management flew to Ashgabat Monday [24 August] to ask the Turkmen government for fuel. The Tajik delegation is concerned that the lack of fuel may interfere with the World Forum of Tajiks set for September 9th in the republic.

Turkmenistan

Germany's Economic Minister Arrives for Talks

OW2408200092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1833 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Germany's Economic Cooperation Minister Carol-Dieter Spranger has said that the governments of Germany and Turkmenistan are going to establish ties with all CIS member-states on the basis of equality and mutual interests. "My visit to Turkmenistan is aimed at forming a basis for such relations." He was speaking at a news conference in Ashgabat on August 24.

The German minister said Western investors need the protection of their capital and profits and if these conditions were already in place, investors would soon be coming to Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan's Vice-Premier Redzhep Saparov who took part in the news conference told journalists

that the negotiations concerned cooperation in gas extraction, the chemical industry and trade. The German delegation's visit will last till August 25.

Prepared To Extend Cooperation

LD2408185992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1818 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By a TURKMEN PRESS correspondent—TASS]

[Text] Ashgabat August 24 TASS—Germany is ready to begin establishing political and economic cooperation with Turkmenistan on a basis of equality, Carol-Dieter Spranger, the German minister for economic cooperation, told reporters on Monday [24 August] following a meeting with Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov. The German minister is staying here on an official visit. "We welcome Turkmenistan's entry into leading international organisations and we highly appreciate the fact that Turkmenistan assumed certain obligations, also as regard human rights", Spranger said.

During the conversation with the German minister, Niyazov said that Turkmenistan had never relied on gratis aid for the solution of its economic problems. He believes cooperation must be based on mutual interests.

Prospects for monetary-crediting relations between the banking systems of the two countries were discussed during negotiations between the governmental delegations of Germany and Turkmenistan. The setting up of joint ventures in various areas of Turkmenistan's national economy was considered.

Industrial Volume Production Drops 16.5 Percent

OW2108142092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1347 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan's enterprises turned out 40.7 billion rubles worth industrial output in the first half of 1992. As the republican statistical committee reports, industrial production volume dropped by 16.5 percent as compared with a corresponding indicator last year.

Recession is in evidence in engineering, gas, chemical and petro-chemical industries, in furniture and knitted goods making, and in fur and confectionery production.

Turkmenistan's fuel and energy facilities produced 30.5 billion cubic meters of gas, gas condensate included, and 2.7 million tonnes of oil, which fall short of the production figures over the same period last year by 27.9 and 1.1 percent.

229.6 million rubles worth products have not been supplied to consumers since the year began.

International Pipeline Negotiations 'Underway'

LD2408161292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1433 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Ashgabat August 24 TURKMENPRESS-TASS—Turkish businessmen have shown considerable interest in a pipeline linking the ex-Soviet Republic of

Turkmenistan to Turkey and Europe, the press service of the president told TURKMEN-PRESS.

President Saparmurad Niyazov met Chairman Ali Riza Bozkurt of the joint Turkish-American company BMB to discuss bilateral cooperation in producing and processing oil, gas and precious stones.

Experts were instructed to analyze alternative designs of the pipeline and finalize proposals for the new pipeline that will

enable Turkmenistan to sell Turkey about 30 billion cubic meters of gas annually at world prices.

Negotiations are now underway between specialists of the Turkmenistan fuel and energy complex and BMB representatives. As a result of the negotiations, the sides expect to sign a cooperative agreement to implement economic projects in the area of oil and gas production and processing.

Armenia

Foreign Ministry Calls For Sanctions on Azeris

NC2408183292 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1650 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Foreign Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] The Armenian Foreign Ministry has on many occasions drawn the attention of the international public to Armenia's position, which calls for a halt to the military attack unleashed by the Azerbaijani Republic against Nagorno-Karabakh and for resolution of the conflict through peaceful means.

The Azerbaijani side, however, not only disregards the calls for a peaceful resolution of the problem, but has further intensified the military operations. For the last month or so, the Azerbaijani Army has been using military aircraft to bomb Nagorno-Karabakh's cities and villages. In the last week alone, they dropped more than 20 tons of bombs on the capital, Stepanakert. Forty people died and more than 200 peaceful citizens were injured as a result of the bombing of Stepanakert on 18 and 22-23 August. Most of the victims were women, children, and elderly. Scores of people are still buried under the rubble.

As a rule, the Azerbaijani mercenary military pilots, who receive 100,000 rubles for every sortie, are dropping their deadly cargo on markets, dormitories, residential buildings, and on public gatherings in the evenings on Saturdays and Sundays to create the maximum number of casualties and frighten the population.

The cruel and barbaric acts committed against the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh are taking place while the international community is exerting efforts to find a peaceful political solution to the Karabakh problem.

The Azerbaijani bandits were not deterred even by the fact that during the latest bombings, Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the CSCE's Minsk conference, was in Baku trying to bring about a cease-fire.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry once again calls on all countries and international organizations to take urgent and extraordinary measures to stop the extermination of the Armenian population by the Azerbaijani Republic and to impose sanctions against Azerbaijan.

Foreign Minister Sends Letter to CSCE Chairman

NC2408192192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian sent a letter today to the chairman of the CSCE Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh. The letter notes that following the fourth round of Rome talks, the Azerbaijani side has intensified the combat operations both in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Azerbaijan occupied a part of Armenia's territory and shelled peaceful

settlements which are far from the areas of military operations. Armenia is interested in formulating measures to resolve the Karabakh conflict. In addition to efforts being exerted [word indistinct] by the international community, Armenia will continue to [words indistinct] bilateral relations with Azerbaijan.

Air Raids, Counterattack Reported in Karabakh

NC2408180992 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International
Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] Citing the self-defense forces headquarters, NAGORNO-KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that according to confirmed data, 10 residents were killed and 18 injured in Stepanakert, 12 were injured in Shusha, and both cities sustained damage when Azerbaijani Su-25 ground attack planes dropped 500-kg bombs on the densely populated districts of Stepanakert and Shusha on 23 August.

According to unconfirmed data, 23 residents were killed and more than 150 injured during the bombing of Stepanakert on 22 and 23 August.

The Azerbaijani air force carried out a new attack this morning, this time on Noraguyug and Khodzhalay in Askeranskiy Rayon. According to preliminary reports, 13 residents were killed and 20 were injured.

The air raids previously were carried out by single aircraft, but now the Azerbaijani leadership is pursuing a policy of using air power to destroy the major settlements in the center of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic which are located outside the area of combat operations.

The Armenian self-defense detachments, which have been waging fierce battles in Mardakertskiy Rayon since 23 August, managed to repulse the enemy from the approaches of Drmbon. According to reports received this morning, Armenian detachments have launched a counterattack towards Sarsang Reservoir.

According to preliminary reports, eight of our freedom fighters were killed and at least 15 enemy soldiers died during battles over the last two days.

Martuni was shelled with Grad rockets from the Azerbaijani military base at Amiranlar on the night of 23 August and early the morning of 24 August. Six residents were injured, three seriously. Ten residential buildings were damaged. The Armenian side returned fire.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives

LD2308165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1639 GMT 23 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Aug (TASS)—A delegation of the Turkish foreign ministry arrived in Armenia on Sunday [23 August]. It entered Armenia via Markara checkpoint on the Araks River. The delegation is headed by assistant deputy foreign minister, ambassador at large, Bilgin Unan. Upon the arrival in Yerevan, he told ITAR-TASS that the purpose of the visit is to improve relations and develop cooperation

between Armenia and Turkey. "Our visit is a stage in the development of bilateral political and economic ties in every area," Unan said.

Regarding prospects of relations between the two neighbouring countries, Unan noted the importance of contacts for the discussion of the principles of contacts and cooperation, creation of a durable basis for their development and establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey. "Many good things can be done, having such a base," Unan said.

Azerbaijan

President Declares State of Emergency

LD2408175192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1730 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent]

[Text] Baku, 24 Aug (TASS)—A month-long state of emergency has been imposed by a decree of the Azerbaijan president on the republic's territory of Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons.

Commenting on the imposition of the state of emergency to the AZERINFORM correspondent, Fazil Mustafayev, head of the State-Legal Section of the apparatus of the republic's president, stated that this action has been taken in connection with Armenia's wide-scale aggression, as a result of which in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons, arable land is being set alight, agricultural land is being destroyed, and agricultural equipment is being put out of action. Farmers are afraid to go out into the fields to gather the harvest, and construction in the countryside has been halted.

President Ready To Develop Ties With France

LD2408210592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondents Aflatun Amashov and Natan Barskiy]

[Text] Baku August 24 TASS—The sovereign Azerbaijan is ready to develop political relations, mutually beneficial economic cooperation, scientific and cultural ties with the Republic of France, the president of Azerbaijan, Abulfaz Elchibey, said today receiving the ambassador of France, Jean Peren, to this Transcaucasian Republic.

Ways of developing diplomatic relations between the two countries were discussed during the meeting, and Jean Peren conveyed France's intention of becoming an active partner of the young democratic state of Azerbaijan.

Nagorno-Karabakh Combat Situation Updated

NC2408190392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center has reported the following:

Azerbaijan Armed Forces [AAF] units in Terterskiy Rayon are maintaining their offensive in the northern part of Karabakh. Clashes are taking place in the southern part of the Sarsangsk Reservoir. Despite the fire directed at Dzhanyatag, Gyulyatag, and [placename indistinct], our fighters are trying to break the enemy's resistance.

AAF units in the southern part of Karabakh destroyed an Armenian military depot, a tank, an armored personnel carrier, and a vehicle-mounted artillery gun on 20 August.

Our artillery units disabled an enemy tank and an infantry combat vehicle and destroyed the Armenian military headquarters in Martuni last night.

Our fighters obstructed an Armenian convoy of 20 trucks loaded with military equipment from reaching Yukhary Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] through the Lachin corridor last night. Our artillery units destroyed several vehicles and killed many armed Armenians.

The residential areas in Zangelanskiy Rayon were fired on today for the third day running from Armenia with various types of arms. There have been casualties and damage.

Armenian units violated the state border and entered Yemezli and (Chogli) today. They set fire to several houses in the two towns. Our fighters launched a counterattack and forced the enemy to retreat. Violent clashes are taking place now.

Tauzskiy and Kedabekskiy Rayons and Abdal and Gyulably in Agdamskiy Rayon were subjected to heavy artillery fire last night. All the towns close to Armenia in Kubatinskiy Rayon were shelled by Grad rockets, artillery, and tanks this afternoon. Retaliatory measures were taken to silence the enemy.

The situation in Kazakhskiy and Akstafa Rayons and in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic is relatively peaceful.

We now draw your attention to the following announcement: The Analytical Information Center will hold a news conference in the building that houses the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense at 1200 on 25 August. The news conference will address the situation on the battle fronts.

Nakhichevan To Establish Control Over Borders

OW2108151992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1353 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 1, the leaders of Nakhichevan will establish control under all of its borders. According to well-informed sources, a special body for safeguarding this autonomous republic's borders has been set up.

The Nakhichevan frontier contingent will be about 3,000-men strong and will consist exclusively of citizens of Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan. The leaders of Nakhichevan insist that the Russian frontier units leave behind the entire military property and equipment.

The Inter-State Committee for Guarding State Borders informed IF [INTERFAX] that an agreement on this had been reached between the Nakhichevan leaders and Russian officials.

Georgia

Reportage Highlights Developments in Abkhazia

Shevardnadze's Radio Address Reported

OW2408173492 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1622 GMT 24 Aug 92

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Top-level talks with the Abkhazian side will not begin unless outside forces stop their interference in the internal affairs of Georgia", said Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Georgia's State Council, on Monday [24 August], in a routine address to the nation broadcast by radio. "According to some reports", he said, in Gudauta District there are up to 500 militiamen sent by the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples. These numbers, Shevardnadze conceded, "need to be verified", but if they are confirmed, "government troops will take the necessary measures".

As early as today, August 24, the chairman of the State Council said, the areas will be indicated where partial mobilization of reservists will be declared under a program of preparations for transition to special conditions.

Addressing Georgia's State Council and government which convened for an emergency session on Sunday [23 August], Shevardnadze warned them of the global consequences that might result from the "démarche" of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples (the Confederation's announcement that it will give Abkhazia aid in combating Georgia's government troops). "Not a single Georgian serviceman will leave Abkhazia till the normal work of the republic's railway transport is ensured", he said.

The chairman of Georgia's State Council qualified the decree issued by the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples as "a document which is openly fascist and man-hating". If need be, Shevardnadze said, "we'll rebuff any aggression" by forming one-million-strong army.

As for the chief of staff of Georgia's Defence Ministry Avtandil Tskitishvili, "at present there is no need to form such a big army". If mobilization is declared after all, it will involve only a part of reservists. At the same session Acting Prime Minister Tenghiz Sigua called for "an immediate local mobilization of reservists to Georgia's national army". As a result of debates the State Council found it necessary to declare "preparations for mobilization throughout Georgia".

Speakers at the session pointed out with reference to what Boris Yeltsin said at his news conference in Moscow on Friday that "official Russia maintains neutrality and will

not condone an aggression against Georgia". State Council members voiced indignation at the stand taken by the ex-president Gamsakhurdia who, they believe, gave his blessing to an armed incursion into Georgia.

The session strongly criticised Russian TV for its allegations that Georgian government troops had used chemical weapons. "The authors of that misinformation are enemies of Abkhazia and Georgia, enemies of peace", E Shevardnadze said.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: As the press center of Abkhazia's parliament declared in a statement, the chairman of Abkhazia's parliament Vladislav Ardzinba described as false the assertions of the chairman of Georgia's State Council that the Abkhazian leadership had been warned of the deployment of troops in advance. His telephone conversation with Shevardnadze took place when the incursion of Georgian troops had already occurred, Ardzinba pointed out.

In his Monday's radio address to the people E. Shevardnadze said that parliamentary elections "should be held necessarily". At the same time he said that they might be delayed, "if circumstances make the holding of elections impossible". According to him, this would pose no tragedy, since "in world practice such things have happened more than once". He is likely to be nominated by the political bloc "Peace" which involves representatives of the democratic forces and intellectuals, E. Shevardnadze said.

Interior Ministry on 'Combat Readiness'

LD2508080392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0500 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] Georgian Internal Affairs Minister Roman Gventsadze, speaking on Georgian television, has said that the entire system of the Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry has been placed on full combat readiness in connection with the statement by the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus on the launching of terrorist actions.

Cossacks To Stay Neutral

LD2508091292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino
Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT
25 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The chief of the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain People's volunteer brigade headquarters reports that the Confederation already has 500 armed men in Abkhazia. The chieftain of the Terkh cossack host says that the Terkh cossacks will in no circumstances get involved in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict. The fewer people dragged into this artificial—as it he called it—confrontation, the better for Abkhazia, Georgia, and Russia. [passage omitted]

One other side could possibly become involved in the Abkhazia-Georgia conflict: Armenia. In any event, Abkhazian sources report that Armenians are being deported from the Ochamchira and Gulripsha Rayons of Abkhazia. This report is relayed by the NEGA agency. Let me stress that it

comes from Abkhazian sources. The Armenian community in these rayons is 35,000-strong.

Abkhaz Reservists Mobilized

WA2508094192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 0830 GMT on 25 August cites a just-arrived ITAR-TASS correspondent's report as saying that "the Georgian faction of the parliament of Abkhazia, headed by First Deputy Chairman Tomaz Nadareyshvili, has announced the mobilization of reservists today. Yesterday, Vladislav Ardzinba, head of the Supreme Soviet of the autonomous republic who has settled down with Abkhaz deputies in Gudauta, declared the creation of a state committee of defense.

"Thereby, the parliament of Abkhazia—which has split in two parts on national grounds—[words indistinct] think, has instituted procedurally the start of civil war in the autonomous republic. In the opinion of observers, the latest decisions by the warring sides threaten unpredictable and most serious consequences for Abkhazia and for the whole of Georgia."

Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0800 GMT on 25 August reports that: "According to the information of the press service of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, major operations were carried out by internationalist forces of Abkhazia in Sukhumi and Gagra on 24 August. According to Abkhaz military intelligence, more than 40 Georgian State Council troops were killed."

Shevardnadze, Yeltsin Consult

OW2408190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1830 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [24 August] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a telephone conversation. According to the State Council's press service, the two men condemned activities of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples which announced its intention to defend the Abkhaz people.

Shevardnadze also expressed concern over the one-sided coverage of the events in the region by TV, which in his opinion, can aggravate the situation in Georgia.

Yeltsin and Shevardnadze also discussed the border issues, as well as some aspects of future Russian-Georgian relations.

Russian Security Council Sends Burbulis

LD2408180792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Excerpt] The Security Council has held an emergency session in Moscow. On the agenda were matters concerning the situation in Abkhazia and the intention of the leadership of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples to use volunteers to defend—I quote—the interests of the Abkhaz people.

At the end of the session it was decided immediately to send State Secretary Burbulis to the North Caucasus. Judging by the state secretary's planned and not canceled visit to Turkey, the trip to the mountains will last about a day. [passage omitted]

Burbulis, Shevardnadze Hold Talks

LD2508091392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis, the Russian president's state secretary, made a short trip on the evening of 24 August to Tbilisi, where he met Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council. Teymuraz Stepanov, Shevardnadze's aide, reported that the meeting, which lasted one and one-half hours, was of a confidential nature, reports INTERFAX.

Ardzinba Given Resignation Ultimatum

LD2508103792 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We literally have just received a TASS report stating that Colonel Karkarashvili, commander of the Georgian troops in Sukhumi, has presented Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, with an ultimatum that he resign. If this does not happen, State Council troops will commence active combat operations. The ultimatum expires at 1300 Moscow time tomorrow.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1030 GMT on 25 Aug adds the following on the ultimatum: "The reason for the ultimatum was the death of two Georgian guards during an exchange of prisoners of war on a bridge over the River Gumista to the north of Sukhumi. The headquarters of Georgian troops in Abkhazia has reported that the bridge came under machine-gun fire from a nearby forest. It has not been established who opened fire."]

Ardzinba Ready To Join Talks

OW2508135992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1338 GMT 25 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba said on Tuesday [25 August] that he was ready to join the Russian-Georgian summit talks on Abkhazia and on the Trans-Caucasian region as a whole, the Abkhazian parliament's press service reports.

Ardzinba believes that the talks between Yeltsin and Shevardnadze must necessarily be attended by Abkhazian representatives.

He also said that the ultimatum presented to him by Georgiy Karkarashvili, the commander of the Georgian troops in Abkhazia, and his demand that resistance be terminated and Ardzinba resign, demonstrates once again that "the Georgian State Council seeks further bloodshed and is determined to solve political problems by force".

Minister Supports Russian Position on Abkhazia
*LD2108192892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1725 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug—"Georgia supports Russia's position with regard to the conflict in Abkhazia," T. Dzharidze, Georgian first deputy minister of foreign affairs, said at a news conference held in Moscow today. According to him, "Georgia does not wish to drag Russia into any of its problems. The republic will resolve its own problems itself." Of course, "Georgia hopes that Russia will help," but, he repeated, "we must tackle our problems ourselves."

The Georgian representative reported on his meeting with Sergey Lavrov, Russian deputy minister of foreign affairs. Both sides stressed their adherence to the principle of inviolability of borders existing between them and the need to adopt measures aimed at settling the Abkhazian conflict as soon as possible by political means. "Russia," Dzharidze stressed, "has confirmed its readiness to do its utmost to facilitate such settlement."

The senior diplomat said that the purpose of his visit to Moscow is not only to take part in talks at the Russian Foreign Ministry, but also to take part in meetings at the embassies of various states in order to explain Georgia's position with regard to the conflict in Abkhazia.

Answering an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, Dzharidze said "that there are no disputed problems between Russia and Georgia. However, there are a number of questions which need discussing over the negotiating table. First and foremost, this concerns the status given to the residence of Russian troops on the territory of Georgia. All of these questions do not represent a stumbling block and cannot block the signing of a major treaty between Georgia and Russia," he believes.

Turkey Assures Shevardnadze of Noninterference
*OW2208161292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1513 GMT 22 Aug 92*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian State Council's press center reports that Eduard Shevardnadze had a telephone conversation with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. The Turkish foreign minister said that he was calling at the request of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel who was not in Ankara at the moment. Mr. Cetin welcomed the State Council's efforts to settle the conflict in Abkhazia peacefully and noted that the agreement reached between Turkey and Georgia in Tbilisi on July 30 was the guarantor of Turkey's non-interference in Georgia's internal affairs. Turkey, said the Turkish foreign minister, recognizes Georgia within its current borders.

The press center of the Georgian State Council told IF [INTERFAX] in this connection that the assertion by Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament Vladislav Ardzinba about Abkhazia's agreement with Turkey on military aid against Georgia, arouses a great deal of surprise.

Shevardnadze Meets Visiting Armenian Premier
*NC1708171792 Yerevan ARMENPRES International
Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 17 Aug 92*

[Text] Yerevan, 17 Aug (ARMENPRES)—Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze met with Armenian Prime Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan in Tbilisi today. Arutyunyan is in Georgia on a short working visit.

Shevardnadze warmly greeted the guest and congratulated him on his appointment as head of the Armenian Government. He then briefed Arutyunyan on the social and political situation in Georgia.

Matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting and both sides said meetings between leaders would be a good idea. Matters pertaining to inter-ethnic conflicts, Nagorno-Karabakh, and incidents in Tskhinvalskiy Rayon were discussed.

The Armenian prime minister voiced his concern over the destabilization of the situation in Georgia, the crimes being committed against railway transportation, particularly in connection with the recent robbery of a Yerevan-Moscow passenger train. Arutyunyan noted that many of the freight trains passing through Georgia on their way to Armenia do not reach their destination.

Arutyunyan said he regrets recent developments in western Georgia and the taking of state officials as hostages, adding that the Armenian Government fully appreciates the Georgian State Council's efforts to stabilize the situation.

N. Ossetian Leader: Forces Should Stay in South
*LD2308090292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0642 GMT 23 Aug 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 23 Aug—In spite of the fact that the peacekeeping forces have fulfilled their task in the Tskhinvali zone, under no circumstances should the Russian, Georgian, and Ossetian battalions be withdrawn from there at the moment, according to Akhsarbek Galazov, the chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet.

He told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the army there remains the only real restraining force. It is able to assure the implementation of the second stage of the peacekeeping mission: the restoration of the vital facilities, the organized return home of 100,000 refugees, and the stage-by-stage solution of the political status of South Ossetia.

According to the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet and reports from the North Ossetian Ministry for Security, the situation in the Tskhinvali zone remains relatively calm. The peacekeeping forces are fully in control of the situation throughout the region. During the past 24 hours joint

observation points have registered several night shelling. Remote villages in the Tskhinvalskiy and Znaurskiy Rayons had been attacked by fighters. The firing points of the armed bandit formations were immediately suppressed.

Refugees are continuing to return to Tskhinvali and other populated areas in South Ossetia. Over 20,000 people have returned to their homes.

S. Ossetian Premier Sees 'Real Advances'

*MK2408100792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian
21 Aug 92 p 1*

[Interview with Oleg Teziyev, chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers, by Yevgeniy Krutikov; place and date not given: "South Ossetia Is Not Sure About the Future"]

[Text] Oleg Teziyev, chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers, answers a KURANTY correspondent's questions.

[Krutikov] Oleg Dzherikhanovich, how would you describe recent events associated with the murder of seven Georgian guards?

[Teziyev] I do not yet know who did this, but the murderers' nationality makes no difference to me. It is a provocation

designed to aggravate the situation in the region and to give grounds for accusing South Ossetia of disregarding the terms of the Dagomys agreements.

[Krutikov] Are the refugees who were in North Ossetia returning to the South?

[Teziyev] Yes, the refugees are returning, but it is necessary to bear in mind that, first, those who are returning are the ones who have somewhere to come back to and, second, we unfortunately do not have the capacity to grant these people help quickly and adequately. Of course, North Ossetia is assisting us in the actual process of the refugees' return—it is a weight off their shoulders....

[Krutikov] Do the differences of opinion with Vladikavkaz remain?

[Teziyev] We cannot assume responsibility for telling people to go back to Tskhinvali and to the villages until we are all 100-percent certain that there will be no repetition of the war. But South Ossetia's political status has not yet been defined, so we cannot relax. Recent events in Abkhazia show that in Georgia, even after Dagomys, a nation's right to self-determination, international law, and simply common sense may be grossly violated. We are not yet sure about the future, although there is no doubt that there have been real advances, including political ones.

Estonia

Defense Forces Conduct Tactical Exercises

OW2208171792 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1543 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian defense forces are having tactical exercises today, including the movement of a motorized infantry column from Tallinn to Voru. A duty officer at the Defense Forces Headquarters told our correspondent that these were the first tactical exercises done on such a scale in Estonia but he did not say whether the motorized column was practicing a defense or offensive operation.

Vahi: Gorbachev Interview Comments 'Provocation'

OW2208171592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1543 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister of Estonia, Tiit Vahi, described Mikhail Gorbachev's interview with the Finnish newspaper Vasabladet as a provocation. The USSR's ex-president told this Finnish newspaper that the Russian troops in the Baltic republics represent a stabilizing factor which restrains discrimination against the non-indigenous population, and that the withdrawal of these troops may lead to bloodshed.

The Estonian premier told the news agency ETA that it was not the withdrawal of the Russian troops that was undermining stability in Estonia and in the other Baltic states, but their presence in these countries.

Defense Ministry Authority To Be Extended

OW2408192592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1825 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Government passed a resolution Monday [24 August] to considerably extend the scope of authority of the republic's ministry of defense. From now on, the ministry will be given the right to conduct talks regarding the withdrawal of the Russian military units from the republic and the evacuation of their materiel. It will also address the issues associated with the movement of these units and their combat equipment on the territory of the republic, as well as the rights of ownership to the real estate used by them.

The government approved the size of grade remuneration for active duty officers of the Estonian Army. Thus, a major general (there are no officers of this grade in the Estonian Army yet) will be entitled to 500 Eesti kroons in addition to his monthly salary, and a junior lieutenant, to 100 kroons.

Border in Territorial Waters Established

OW2408192392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1825 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian government at its Monday [24 August] session established the base line for outlining the republican territorial waters. Their width will be set to 12 nautical miles from the shore line. The government also passed a resolution re the republic's joining the 1958 Geneva Convention on the territorial waters and the 1982 UN Maritime Law Convention.

The republic's state minister, Uno Veering, reminded the government members that Estonia has confronted "certain problems" in marking out its territorial waters with Latvia. Latvia established its sea border in 1990, with some of the waters, which it regards as its own, "overlapping" with the Estonian territorial waters in the Bay of Parnu and the Straits of Irben. The Estonian-Latvian border commission has not reached an agreement in that regard so far.

The draft law on the territorial waters will soon be presented to the republic's State Assembly.

Group Demands Russian Recognition of Border

OW2408192892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1825 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian association "Petserimaa" ("Pechory") staged a picket this Monday [24 August] in front of the Russian Embassy in Tallinn. The embassy employees were handed a petition demanding that Russia recognize its border with Estonia, as specified by the Tartu Peace Treaty of February 2, 1920.

On the basis of this Treaty Estonian was entitled to two small territories beyond Narva and in Pechery region with the total area of 2,000 sq. [square] km. In 1940, Russia returned these territories.

The Russian Embassy employees promised to pass this petition to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Candidate Favors Citizenship for Russians

OW2108234192 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1748 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "I believe it is necessary to accept applications for Estonian citizenship from Russian-speaking residents of Estonia and to bring these into effect in due course", the candidate for Estonian presidency from the "Popular Front" bloc professor Rein Taagepera told a press conference in Tallinn Friday [21 August]. However, he pointed out that he referred only to those Russian residents of Estonia who "with all their hearts supported its independence movement and actually participated in it".

In the opinion of professor Taagepera, an insignificant number of applications for the Estonian citizenship made so far shows that fears of big influx of those willing to become Estonian citizens are groundless.

At the same time Taagepera noted that Estonia "would not like" to accept too many Russians as its citizens.

Russian Bomber Aircraft Moved From Tartu

*LD2408133792 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network
in Estonian 1700 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Text] The former Soviet Army's strategic bomber division, which was located at Tartu, has moved to Soletsk, in Novgorod oblast. Valentin Vasilyev, deputy head of the Soltsy rayon administration, affirmed to a RIA correspondent that with the help of the soldiers, he hopes to speed up construction of the Soltsy town's new water supply system and a water purification plant. Only Russian Army transport aircraft are presently situated at the Tartu military airfield, the Baltic News Service reports.

Latvia

CIS Diplomatic Relations To Be Established

*LD2108210392 Riga Radio Riga International
in English 2030 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Text] Latvia is to establish official diplomatic relations with the CIS, the Commonwealth of Independent States, signatory countries, according to a Foreign Ministry official. Latvia is likely to open Embassies in Kiev, Minsk, and Tashkent, as well as Consulates in St. Petersburg, Vitebsk, and Pskov soon.

Meanwhile, candidatures of honorary consuls to Germany, Venezuela, Brazil, Italy, and India have been nominated and the papers submitted for approval to the governments of the respective countries. Latvia has so far appointed eight honorary consuls to different states, including Norway, Canada, Australia, Israel, Greece, Cyprus, South Korea, and Austria. An honorary consulate is less popular among developed countries but remains important for Latvia, according to the Foreign Ministry official, while its official representations and embassies still endure financial difficulties.

Further on Expanding Relations

*LD2408091292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0820 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Riga August 24 TASS—Russians in Latvia treat Moscow visitors with a perceptible share of skepticism. They got tired of hearing lofty-sounding statements that Russia remembers its fellow citizens. However, they are looking forward with impatience to the ambassador's arrival as too many questions have amassed.

Those who are interested in opening the embassy as soon as possible and many others believe that professional diplomats will help officials in their country to visualise the situation here more impartially unlike journalists who are

accredited here and, as it is believed, propagandize poorly the republic's progressive experience outside its boundaries.

The Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh himself, in an interview with the local press, promised to become engrossed in matters as soon as he arrives in Riga and the necessary conditions are created for this. His expected arrival here today is associated exactly with the next stage in the preparatory work.

Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans said the republic's leaders promised to the Russian authorities to vacate the old embassy building before October 1. This stately mansion now houses the Ministry of Culture. Certainly, Minister Raimond Pauls and his team do not want to leave the building. But, evidently, the movement to another building is inevitable. True, it is not yet clear which building it will be.

Ukraine, too, also plans to open a diplomatic mission in Riga shortly. Latvia, in turn, seeks to expand its network of diplomatic services in republics of the former Soviet Union. Negotiations are under way with authorities in St. Petersburg, Minsk and Kiev. Latvia's envoys also toured for this purpose the Central Asian states.

One reason behind the invigoration of such actions is the desire to introduce visas. This issue is now centre stage to the Latvian Government, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis said. "Not to be laughable in the eyes of the world community, people should be given an opportunity of receiving visas in the civilised way and outside Latvia, in the country from which they are going," Godmanis said.

The prime minister said the new procedure for entry into the republic will be established in September.

Rain Hampers Grain Harvest

*LD2208015192 Riga Radio Riga Network
in Latvian 1730 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Text] The rain in recent days, especially in the northern rayons of Vidzeme province, is slightly hampering the grain harvest. Therefore, at farms in Gulbene, Aulksne, and other rayons, the harvesting of grain is no longer going so quickly [word indistinct].

In this zone, although the winter crop store is almost in, and the summer [words indistinct], on the farms, this work is approaching its end in practice.

Altogether by today, 63 percent of the sowing has been harvested, and the average crop has fallen to 24.7 quintals a hectare. In Jelgava, they have come closest to completing the grain harvest. There, about one fifth is left. On farms in Dobeles, Talsi, Tukums and also Aizkraukle rayons, where the harvest is harder than for most of Latvia's collective farms, everything that was planted will soon be harvested.

Some of the harvest will remain for their own use and some will be sold to the state purchaser. Yes, well, here we go back to the usual [word indistinct] for all grain growers.

Financial Problems Threaten Grain Purchases

OW2208213092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1543 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The current financial problems in Latvia threaten to delay purchases of grain for the winter. First Vice-President of the Latvijas Labiba concern, Kirill Kopkov, told BF [BALTFAX].

To this day, this concern which purchases grain in Latvia and abroad, has not received loans from the Latvian Bank as agreed upon earlier with the Latvian government. The Latvian bank stated, however, that it will extend loans only after it is given the go-ahead by the Latvian parliament. Kopkov said that delays may seriously complicate the purchasing of agricultural produce for the winter.

All State Bank Credit Sources 'Exhausted'

LD2408224692 Riga Radio Riga International
in English 2030 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] The State Bank of Latvia has announced it ceases issuing all credits except for those meant for buying grain. All credit sources have been exhausted according to Einars Repse, President of the Bank of Latvia. He announced that during a government meeting with representatives of local municipalities discussing financial matters. Following this year's crop failure in many areas, the municipalities have called on both the government and the State Bank to begin preparations for the issuing of the so-called state borrowing bonds. Meanwhile, president of the State Bank argued that the current 80 percent rate of interest on the credits issued to municipalities until now is lagging behind the galloping inflation. The inflation rate during the past 12 months has reached 600 per cent according to statistics.

Tougher Conditions for IMF Loan Urged

LD2108225392 Riga Radio Riga International
in English 2030 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] The IMF should set tougher conditions. Latvia is seeking a loan from the fund, a Latvian committee considers. [sentences as heard] The Latvian committee has called on the IMF to reconsider both the Latvian foreign and domestic problems before drafting its final resolution on an eventual credit. In a letter signed by the committee it calls for the loan extension to be bound with several conditions giving the reforms in this country a permanent character, including the imposition of strict controls over the use of the prospective loan. The Latvian committee believes that a number of measures should be immediately taken to stabilize the situation in Latvia before any loans are granted, and, namely, all Russian military and industrial installations should be removed from Latvia, noncitizens presently residing in this country should be repatriated and all confiscated property should be returned to its legitimate owners, and the former KGB agents and Communist Party leaders should be rejected from administrative centers.

Progress of the Introduction of the Lat Noted

OW2108144992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1421 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The program of the Bank of Latvia, as regards its preparation for the introduction of the republic's national currency - the Lat, is advancing successfully. The objectives set for Phase One of the program have been attained, said the president of the Bank of Latvia, Einars Repse, at the parliamentary session Thursday [20 August].

Mr Repse revealed that the transitional period may be divided into two stages. At Stage One, Latvia established the Latvian Ruble as the only legal tender on the territory of the republic, stabilizes it, employs its "floating rate" for accounting with the CIS countries, thereby averting a possibility of its devaluation.

Stage Two includes reorganization and stabilization of the republic's fiscal and economic systems, as well as reduction of the inflation rate. In the words of Mr Repse, the realization of Stage Two would be expedited by the privatization campaign, as well as reorientation of the republic's economy toward the western market.

Mr Repse also noted that at the moment of the introduction of Lats, the Bank of Latvia is planning to exchange all the cash and no-cash rubles at the same rate. This, however, does not imply that the rate of exchange of the Latvian rubles for the Lats would be set at 1:1, the president of the Bank of Latvia said.

Defense Cooperation With Lithuania Established

LD2308183592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English
2130 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Text] The Latvian defense minister, Talavs Jundzis, and his Lithuanian counterpart, Audrius Butkevicius, have announced that a joint Lithuanian-Latvian program of contacts and cooperation in the sphere of national defense has been worked out. The two military officials met in the Latvian capital, Riga. At a press conference held there, the two defense ministers also confirmed that a Lithuanian-Latvian security development program had already been drawn up.

Gorbunovs Comments on Independence Anniversary

LD2108160992 Riga Radio Riga Network
in Latvian 1300 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] We have received a speech by the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia [Anatolijs Gorbunovs] to our countrymen abroad on the anniversary of the restoration of the independence of Latvia. The address says: A year after the Supreme Council adopted the constitutional law on the change of sovereign status, whereby the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Latvia was announced, Latvia is experiencing a complex and tense period in which concern about the economic situation in the coming winter and tension concerning bilateral talks on the unresolved issue of the withdrawal of the Russian Army are

paramount. Therefore, one cannot speak today of a [word indistinct] feeling. Today one must look critically at how the past year has gone.

The Supreme Council, together with the government, must devote all of their energy to solving, in the remaining working period, the (?broad) unsolved issues, of which the three most important are power, property, and daily bread. We must prepare for the Saeima elections, which must be conducted no later than the autumn of 1993. At the same time, work must be continued on economic reform, particularly on the questions of property. Former property owners must be given real opportunities to be given back their property or compensation.

In his speech, Anatolijs Gorbunovs said that everything must be done so that those families who are now living below the poverty line are brought above it. Finally, Mr. Gorbunovs called on his countrymen abroad to keep abreast of everything that is happening in the homeland, and to assist with both advice and participation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Yakutiya

OW2208212992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1543 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis said upon his return to Riga from Yakutiya that the two states had signed an agreement on trade and economic relations for 1992-93. Also, a protocol on opening the Republic of Sakha's trade mission in Riga, and a protocol of intent in the sphere of tourism, health care and geology were signed.

Lithuania

IMF Guarantees Funds 'To Settle All Accounts'

OW2108181492 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1748 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania can rely on "a large-scale aid" by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international financial institutions, Executive Director of the International Hard Currency Fund Michael Camdessus told a press conference in Vilnius Friday [21 August]. Having refused to indicate even an approximate amount of this aid, he nevertheless noted that "it would be enough to settle all accounts" of the republic.

Speaking at the press conference Camdessus praised the economic program of the Lithuanian government which, in his opinion, coincides with the IMF's concept. Camdessus believes the privatization process in Lithuania is moving forward, and efforts by the government to balance the state budget by the end of the year are evident.

Landsbergis Gives Statement on 1991 Coup Attempt

LD2408192792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Statement by Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of the August putsch, reports have been published about the death of the volunteer Arturas Sakalauskas outside the Supreme Council building. Commenting on the material made public by an investigator, Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, said it was improper and lacked substance.

Since the start of the January events, the political situation was also a military one at the same time due to actions of the foreign armed forces and the armed terror in Lithuania. When the fight is in progress and when soldiers die while fulfilling their duty to the motherland, we do not speak about those who perished in terms of whether they were or were not careful enough in the battle. Talks about the imprudence of the defenders of the TV tower would only justify the actions of the aggressor.

The cause of death for Sakalauskas was a terrorist attack on the Supreme Council. In this case the entire group of attackers is to blame, as are their direct leaders. To interpret this as manslaughter during a fight would be a complete misunderstanding. There is no need for any evil explanations to the fact that after he was wounded during the attack, Sakalauskas did not run to seek medical assistance but instead, wanted to help his friends.

If there is any need to give some explanations publicly before the case has been closed, it would be better if those investigating the crime and the circumstances would not lose their civic and state point of view.

The reasons behind the decision to hurt the parents of the perished volunteer on the day of the anniversary are a matter of tact and morality, Vytautas Landsbergis concluded.

Landsbergis Comments on Gorbachev's Interview

OW2308145592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1340 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the anniversary of the August coup an interview with the former Soviet President M.S. Gorbachev was published in Helsinki. The interview warns against the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries, since their removal "would trigger a large-scale war and lead to bloodshed". M. Gorbachev positively assesses the unlawful presence of foreign troops in the Baltic countries as a "stabilizing factor" and as a means to ensure protection for the Russian-speakers living there.

With reference to the interview Vytautas Landsbergis, head of Lithuania's parliament, declared: in Helsinki M. Gorbachev opposes the Helsinki process.

"His friends in the West will be astonished to see that the former reformer now acts as an obvious imperialist", V. Landsbergis went on to say. As for conflicts, they could take place as a result of endeavours to incite discord between population groups, accompanied by illegal distribution of weapons. The CPSU M. Gorbachev used to lead pursued precisely this kind of policy in the space stretching from the Caucasus and Central Asia to Kaliningrad. In the Baltic countries this policy totally failed, and therefore "M. Gorbachev's irritation and his desire to maintain military tensions are understandable". "However we want neither tensions, nor destabilization, nor incitement with arms distribution. That is why we'll press for the implementation of the agreement concerning a quick, neat and full troops withdrawal signed in Helsinki on July 10 this year. As for Lithuania, people of all nationalities are protected by its legislation and international commitments", said Vytautas Landsbergis in conclusion.

Abisala Comments on First Month as Premier
OW2308143892 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1339 GMT 23 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] August 22 marked one month since the Lithuanian parliament endorsed the nomination of Aleksandras Abisala as Lithuania's Prime Minister.

On Saturday [23 August], in an interview for Lithuanian radio, A. Abisala said that he had hoped to accomplish more than he succeeded in achieving. Under good economic circumstances a new government is not elected, the prime minister said.

According to A. Abisala, life itself indicates how Lithuania's economy should develop: evidently we'll have to accept world prices for the fuel and raw materials coming from Russia, and "resolutely adopt our own financial and monetary system".

Lithuania, its prime minister pointed out, is on the threshold of the 3rd stage of its "transition to a normal free market" which has to be passed "quickly and resolutely". According to him, the present economic situation in Lithuania is predetermined by "a very bad implementation of agreements with Russia, both by the state and by industrial facilities".

Nevertheless, even as an optimist, A. Abisala conceded that Lithuania "ran aground with the prices of fuel". According to him, "the people will understand and the circumstances will force us to make the necessary moves quickly, cleverly and resolutely".

Government Considers Plans To Raise Fuel Prices
OW2208213292 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1542 GMT 22 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Lithuanian Vice-Premier Bronislovas Lubys, energy prices in Lithuania may within the next few days rise fivefold on average. Next week, he said, the government is planning to consider several schemes for raising energy prices, drafted by the Economics Ministry.

One of the schemes is that one liter of A-76 petrol should go up from 19 to 35 rubles, one liter of A-92 petrol, from 23 to 40 rubles, one liter of diesel fuel, from 14 to 28 rubles, and one kilowatt/hour of electricity, from 0.7 to 3.5 rubles. The price of natural gas would be 30.25 rubles per square meter in a house or flat, and 612.60 rubles in a greenhouse. The price of water would be 279.85 rubles a month per person.

Lithuanian experts believe drastic increases in energy prices could be avoided if the government gave a subsidy of 8.5 bn [billion] rubles.

Refinery Still Awaiting Russian Crude Supplies
LD2408223592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius
in English 2130 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Text] The oil refinery in the Lithuanian town of Mazeikiai is still awaiting the renewal of crude oil supplies from Russia. The director general of the oil refinery, Mr. Bronislovas (?Vaimura), said on Saturday [22 August] that oil supplies were expected already this week. They were cut off on 30th July after the quota agreed upon by Lithuania and Russia had been exhausted. As of 4th August all technological lines at the Mazeikiai oil refinery have been non-functioning. Specialists of the enterprise expect that they may be helped out by Estonia, which has signed a treaty on buying crude oil from Russia. Lithuania would not have to pay Estonia (?tax), but (?give it 80 percent) of the oil products refined at Mazeikiai.

Landsbergis Says Winter May Be 'Difficult'
OW2408132992 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1301 GMT 24 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today's situation is Lithuania has much in common with what it was like following the reinstatement of the republic's independence in 1990, said Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council during his interview for the Lithuanian television Sunday [23 August].

At that time the Soviet Union, he recalled, was threatening Lithuania, and resorted to an economic blockade in the hope to bring the republic "down to its knees". The republic, however, managed to stanch the pressure and preserve its integrity.

The forthcoming winter, too, may be very difficult to weather, Mr Landsbergis warned, and unless Lithuania succeeds in arranging fuel and other raw material supplies from Russia into the country, it may once again become a matter of "survival" for the republic.

Landsbergis Addresses Emigration Conference*OW2208212692 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1543 GMT 22 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania should be ready to receive its sons and daughters coming back from the former Soviet Union and other countries," the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, said addressing the final session of the conference "Lithuania - Emigration: Contacts and Unused Opportunities" held in the Lithuanian town of Birstonas from 17 to 21 August.

He expressed the conviction that the conference would serve to strengthen Lithuania's links with its diaspora and bring into being new "generations of patriots." The conference, convened at the initiative of the Lithuanian community in the USA and the parliament and some public organizations in Lithuania, was attended by Lithuanians from 14 countries.

Representation Sought*OW2408193092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1824 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The participants of the conference "Lithuania - Emigration: Nexus and Potential Opportunities" which has just completed its work are proposing to include in the republic's new Constitution a provision to the effect that "all Lithuanians, irrespective of their residence, are endowed with the right to citizenship in the Lithuanian Republic". Taking part in the Conference, apart from the representatives of Lithuania were overseas Lithuanians residing in 14 countries in Europe, North and South America, Australia, and Africa.

At a briefing in the Lithuanian parliament Monday [24 August] dedicated to the results of the conference, journalists were familiarized with the appeal of the its participants [as received] to the republic's government. This document contains a request of the Lithuanian overseas community to have their representatives in the Sejm - the republic's new parliament.

The conference participants emphasized the need to include an article providing for the "protection of the rights of Lithuanian nationals residing in those countries" in all the agreements Lithuania is concluding with the other countries, first and foremost East European countries.

Belgium, Germany Protest Polish Border Conflict*OW2108150592 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1421 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] If Lithuania does not normalize the situation at the Ladjai border station at the Lithuanian-Polish border, the West may curtail its humanitarian aid efforts to Lithuania along with Western investments into the republic's economy, reads the statement in the "LIETUVOS AIDAS" daily made by the department head of the German MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs], Mr Brummer, to the Lithuanian Embassy in Bonn. The statement notes that the German MFA is constantly receiving complaints with the behavior of the Lithuanian customs officers and border guards at this border station.

The Lithuanian Ambassador in Belgium, Mr Kuris, also informed his government that Belgian state agencies are also warning him of possible negative consequences of the situation at the Ladjai border guard station for the relations between the two countries.

Government Delegation Returns From China*LD2308050692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Summary] Today, the Lithuanian Government delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Rokas Bernotas, returned from China. A consular convention was signed in China, and notes were exchanged on the visa regime. Discussions took place on cooperation in transport services and cultural institutions.

Sajudis Leader Denounces Russian Troop Presence*OW2408133092 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1301 GMT 24 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The consequences of one of the most heinous crimes against humanity in the European history—the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact—have not been eliminated, Juozas Tumelis, chairman of the "Sajudis", said in his speech at the rally marking the 53rd anniversary of the infamous Pact on Cathedral Square in Vilnius Sunday [23 August]. Up to now, "the occupational troops have not been withdrawn from the republic, whereas should Russia recur its imperial ambitions and illusions, they may become extremely dangerous".

Ex-Communist's Popularity Reportedly Climbs*PM2508084192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Aug 92 p 1*

[Vladas Bikulcius report under the "Clear and Concise" rubric: "They've Fallen in Love With a Communist"]

[Text] According to a poll conducted by Vilnius University's sociological laboratory, recently there has been a drastic drop in the popularity ratings of Lithuania's incumbent leaders. V. Landsbergis, Lithuanian Supreme Council chairman, who led these polls a year ago, now holds fifth place. The list of the most popular politicians is led by A. Brazauskas, the former Communist leader, now chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party.